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DANCE till TOMORROW

STORY AND ART BY NAOKI YAMAMOTO

vol. 7

STORY & ART BY
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

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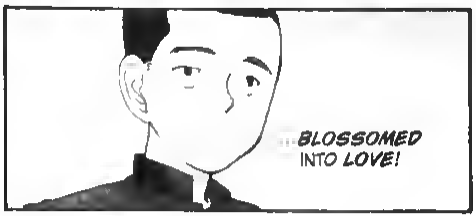
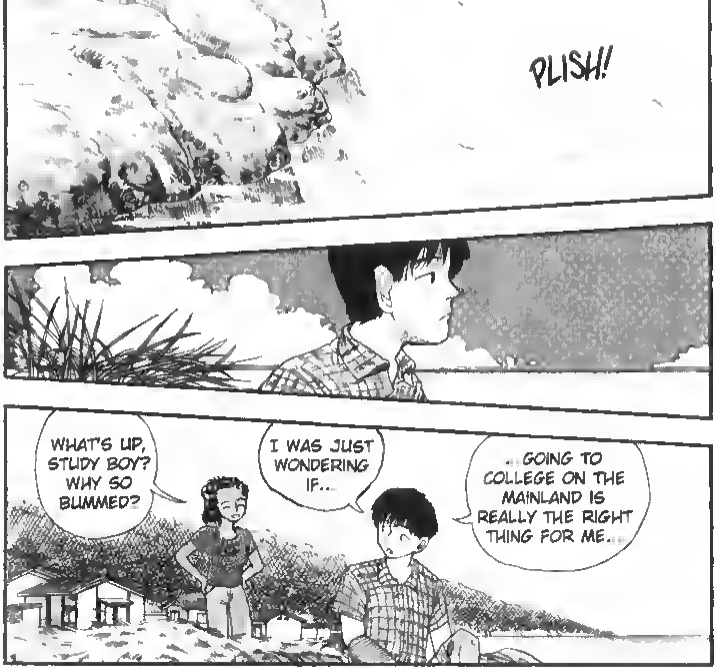
ACT ONE
SUEKICHI GOES HOME (PART TWO)

THE YEAR HE ENTERED THE FIFTH GRADE, SUEKICHI'S FAMILY MOVED TO A REMOTE ISLAND.

THE POOR LAD COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE ISLAND URCHINS' DIALECT. THUS, HIS NEIGHBOR SAKUKO--ALBEIT FIVE YEARS HIS SENIOR--BECAME HIS ONLY FRIEND.




PLISH!
WHAT'S UP, STUDY BOY? WHY SO BUMMED?
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF...
...GOING TO COLLEGE ON THE MAINLAND IS REALLY THE RIGHT THING FOR ME...

DON'T WORRY SO MUCH!
JUST CONCENTRATE ON PREPPING FOR YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS. KEEP YOUR FOCUS!
I-IT'S JUST THAT...

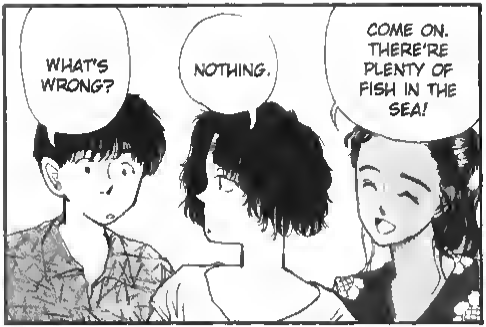
...THE THOUGHT OF BEING SO FAR AWAY FROM YOU...

HOW'S THE STUDYING GOING?
HEY. WHEN'D YOU GET BACK?

GUESS WHAT?
WE'RE GETTING MARRIED.
NICE GOING, BRO'.
I WANTED YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!
WE'LL HAVE THE WEDDING BEFORE YOUR LIFE GETS TOO HECTIC.
STUDY HARD!
SURE.
THAT'S IT THEN.
I HAVE TO LEAVE THIS ISLAND!!
NOW THAT I'VE LOST MY ONLY REASON TO STAY!
The End

...ISN'T THAT THE STORY YOU'VE BEEN HEARING?
WHAT A CLICHÉ.
THANKS A LOT. YOU CALL ME LONG DISTANCE OUT OF THE BLUE, GRILL ME, AND THEN JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.
YOU WOULDN'T SEEK MY ADVICE IF YOU WEREN'T SO DESPERATE.
GUESS WHAT?
I DIDN'T "SEEK YOUR ADVICE"!
WHAT? ANOTHER DOCU-DRAMA? YOU'RE JUST RUNNING UP YOUR PHONE BILL!
JUDGING FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME...
...IT'S CLEAR THAT TO SUEKICHI, YOU'RE JUST A CHEAP SUBSTITUTE.

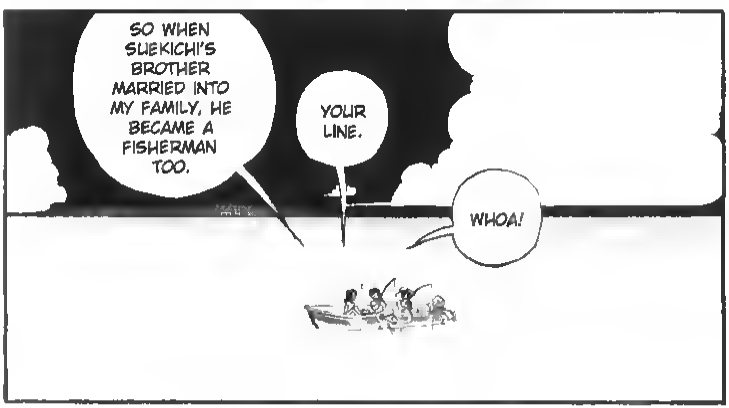
DON'T YOU GET IT? HE'S *PROJECTING* THE WOMAN HE ADORES ONTO YOU! HE'S JUST TALKED HIMSELF INTO LOVING YOU.
AM I RIGHT, OR WHAT?
I'M HANGING UP. THIS ISN'T MY PLACE. I CAN'T TIE UP THE PHONE
YOU JUST DON'T LISTEN, DO YOU?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
HEY, WAIT--
AYA!
LET'S GO FISHING!
LOOK WHO I BUMPED INTO ON MY BIKE RIDE!


WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.
COME ON. THERE'RE PLENTY OF FISH IN THE SEA!

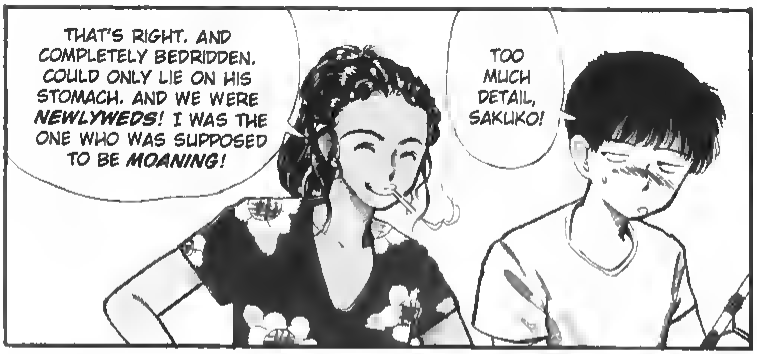
WHAT ABOUT THE KID?
AT HIS GRANDMA'S

LET'S GET GOING!

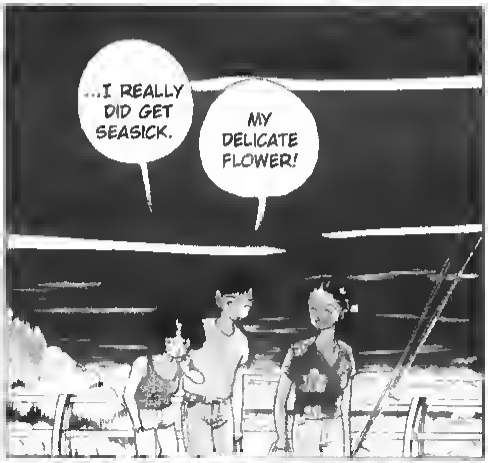
I WON'T LET THAT WOMAN STEAL MY INHERITANCE!
SHE'S GOT A NERVE SUCKING UP TO HIS FAMILY
SUE .YOU'RE SCARING ME TODAY.


SO WHEN SUEKICHI'S BROTHER MARRIED INTO MY FAMILY, HE BECAME A FISHERMAN TOO.
YOUR LINE.
WHOA!

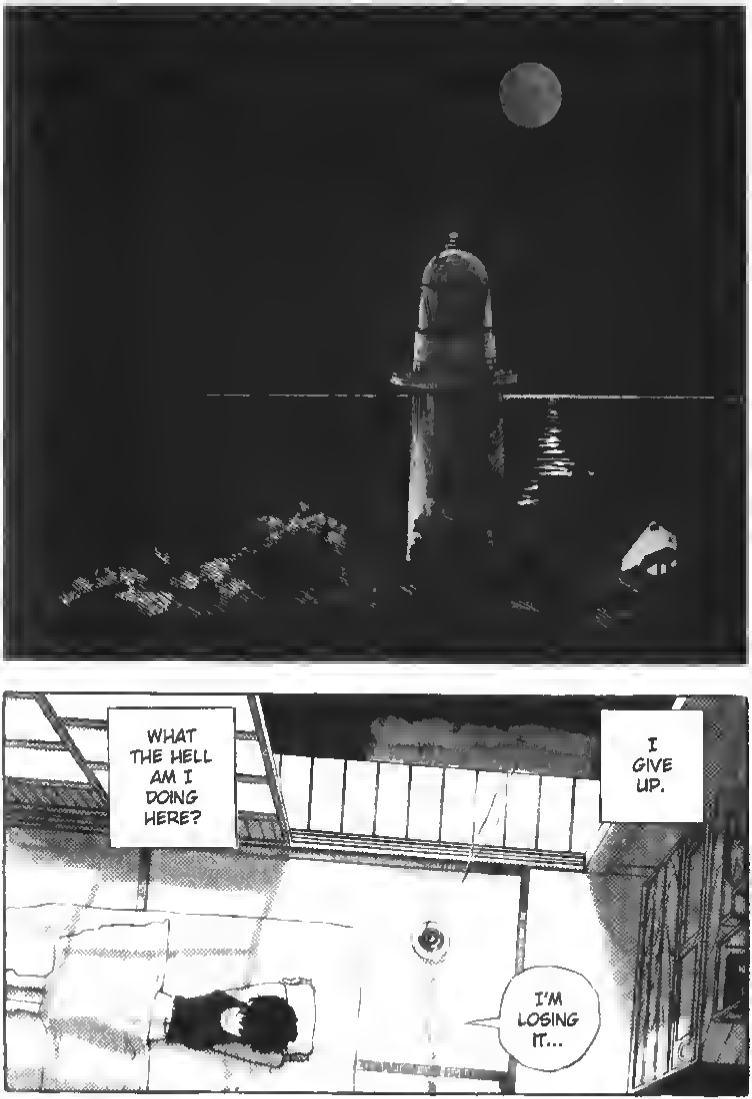
HE EVEN GOT A DEGREE IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT! BUT YOU KNOW HOW HE IS. HE WAS HOPELESS AT FIRST!
HEY! YOUR LINE, TOO!
WE SURE ARE CATCHING A LOT OF FISH!
...
WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME AND BE A FISHERMAN TOO!
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT...
FHIP
FHIP
WHAT'S WRONG?
SEASICK. HLP! GOTTA LIE DOWN.
SHOULD WE HEAD BACK?
I'M FINE. JUST NEED A REST.
REMEMBER HOW PALE HE WAS? GOT BURNT TO A CRISP THE FIRST TIME OUT!
HE WAS MOANING WITH PAIN.


THAT'S RIGHT. AND COMPLETELY BEDRIDDEN. COULD ONLY LIE ON HIS STOMACH. AND WE WERE *NEWLYWEDS!* I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *MOANING!*
TOO MUCH DETAIL, SAKUKO!

SERIOUSLY! WE COULDN'T *DO IT* FOR *SIX MONTHS!*
YEAH, RIGHT.


...I REALLY DID GET SEASICK.
MY DELICATE FLOWER!

HEY!
WOW! LONG TIME NO SEE!
WHY DIDN'JA CALL US?
WE'RE THROWIN' A CLASS REUNION FOR YOU!
MY HIGH-SCHOOL BUDDIES!
YOU MUST BE SUE-KICHI'S, UM. .
TOO GOOD FOR 'IM!
LET'S DUNK!
EVERYONE'LL FREAK! HOW DID OUR SUEKICHI GET A GIRL LIKE--
I'M NOT FEELING WELL.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
AW...
HAVE A NICE TIME


WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE?
I GIVE UP.
I'M LOSING IT...

I'M BACK!!

YOU SHOULDA COME. WHADDA BLAST! EVERYONE WASH DYIN' TO MEETCHA. IN FACT, THEY FOLLOWED ME HOME!
DON'T TOUCH ME.

WHAT'SA MADDER?
I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD.

THAT'S NOT LIKE MY AYA!
FWAP

WHERE YOU GOIN'?
FOR A WALK.

GOOD. COULD USE A WALK MYSHELF AFTER ALL THAT DRINKIN'.
...

WHY'RE YOU SULKING? 'CAUSE I PARTIED WITHOUT YOU?
CHEER UP. I'LL BUY YOU A CAN OF JUICE.
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD.

HEY, THAT'S SAKUKO'S HOUSE! TOLD YOU THEY LIVED NEAR US. MAYBE WE SHOULD DROP BY.

AH! AH! AH!

FWA
EAP
F-W

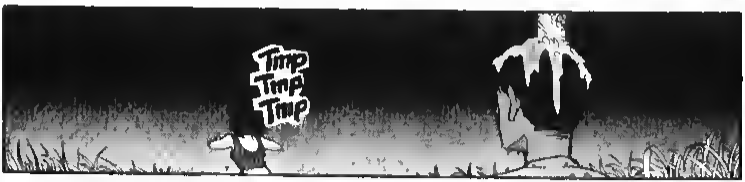
SAKUKO ALWAYS WAS HYPERACTIVE.
AHHHH!! AH! AH! AH!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN OFF LIKE THAT.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL. THEY'RE MARRIED. AND THEY MUST HAVE DONE IT AT LEAST TWICE. WE CAN HEAR THEM, AND THEY HAVE A KID.
I'M NOT RUNNING OFF.
DID YOU HAVE A THING FOR SAKUKO?
YEAH. SO WHAT?
HOW ABOUT NOW?
DON'T BE SILLY. I WAS JUST A KID. AND A MÉNAGE À TROIS ISN'T MY THING.
LIAR.

YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON HER AT ALL! YOU HAVE FUN WITH HER ALL DAY AND LONG FOR HER ALL NIGHT! WHAT AM I TO YOU--JUST A CHEAP SUBSTITUTE!?
SIMMER DOWN, AYA!

SAKUKO'S GOING OUT OF HER WAY TO ENTERTAIN US BECAUSE WE CAME ALL THIS WAY FROM THE CITY.
SURE, I LIKE HANGING OUT WITH HER, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN...

UMM...
PLISH PLISH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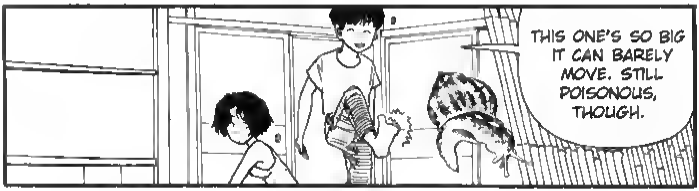
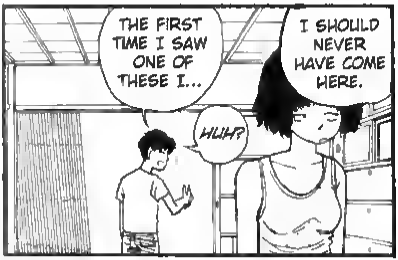
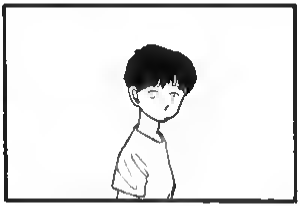
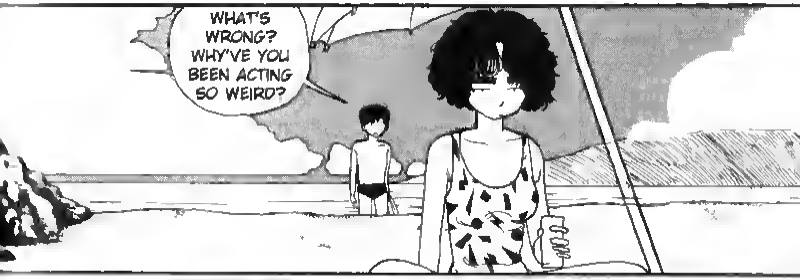
ACT TWO
SUEKICHI GOES HOME (PART THREE)

AIEE !!!
UGH UGH
UGH UGH
UGH UGH
UGH UGH
GOOD MORN-ING!
SLOOOMP


THIS ONE'S SO BIG IT CAN BARELY MOVE. STILL POISONOUS, THOUGH.


THE FIRST TIME I SAW ONE OF THESE I...
HUH?
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME HERE.

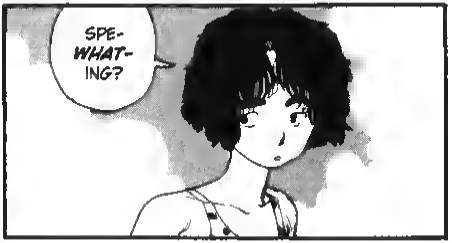


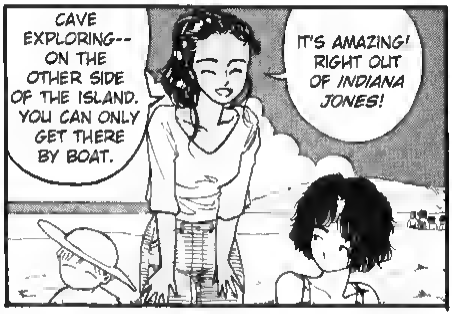

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY'VE YOU BEEN ACTING SO WEIRD?

YOU'RE NOT STILL UPSET ABOUT YESTERDAY! I *TOLD* YOU--
DON'T TALK TO ME. YOU'RE MAKING ME NAUSEOUS.

HEY!

WANNA GO SPELUNK-ING?


SPE-
WHAT-
ING?

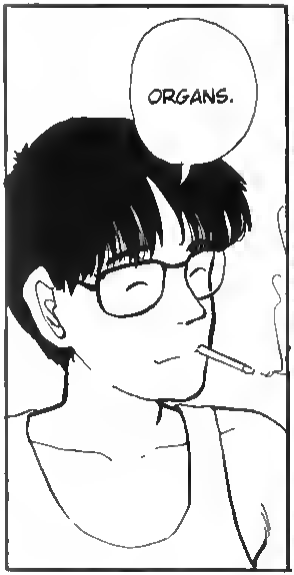

CAVE EXPLORING-- ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND. YOU CAN ONLY GET THERE BY BOAT.
IT'S AMAZING! RIGHT OUT OF INDIANA JONES!

THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY COOL HIDDEN INSIDE I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU!
OH, YEAH! THE THREE OF US USED TO HANG OUT THERE ALL THE TIME.
I'M NOT GOING.

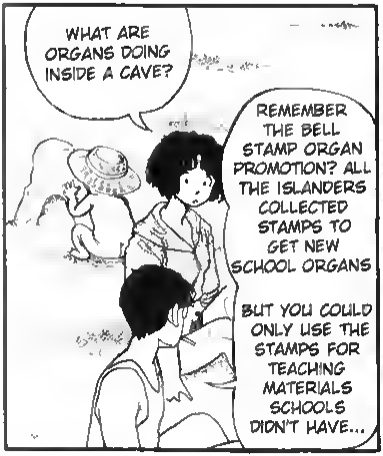
WHAT? COME ON! YOU'LL LOVE IT!
DON'T BE SUCH A PARTY POOPER SAKUKO'S GOING OUT OF HER WAY TO SHOW US A GOOD TIME!
YOU TWO CAN TAKE YOUR TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE WITHOUT ME.

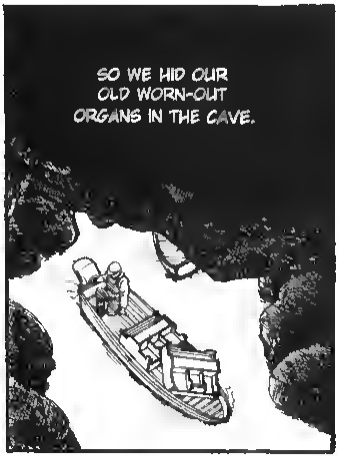
ME SCARE OF CAVE!
LAST TIME I TOOK HIM HE WOULDN'T STOP CRYING.
I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM. YOU TWO GO ON.
BESIDES, I LIKE HANGING OUT WITH KIDS.
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT IF YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH US?
I WANT TO GO. IT'S BEEN *AGES!*
I'VE HAD ENOUGH BOAT RIDES, ANYWAY.
SHE'S USUALLY SO SELF-CENTERED...
I FEEL BAD LEAVING HER TO WATCH THE KID...

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
OFF WORK ALREADY?
BY THE WAY...
LOW CLEARANCE!
I REMEMBER
WHAT A BAD MOM! MAKING OUR GUESTS BABY-SIT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I LIKE MAKING SAND-CASTLES
...WHAT'S HIDDEN IN THE CAVE?

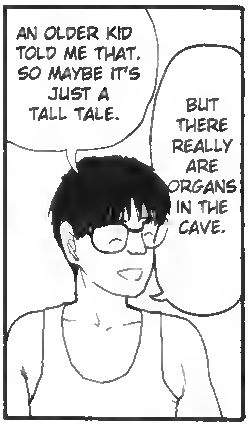

ORGANS.

WOW! THIS SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!
THE ACOUSTICS IN HERE ARE AWESOME!


WHAT ARE ORGANS DOING INSIDE A CAVE?
REMEMBER THE BELL STAMP ORGAN PROMOTION? ALL THE ISLANDERS COLLECTED STAMPS TO GET NEW SCHOOL ORGANS
BUT YOU COULD ONLY USE THE STAMPS FOR TEACHING MATERIALS SCHOOLS DIDN'T HAVE...

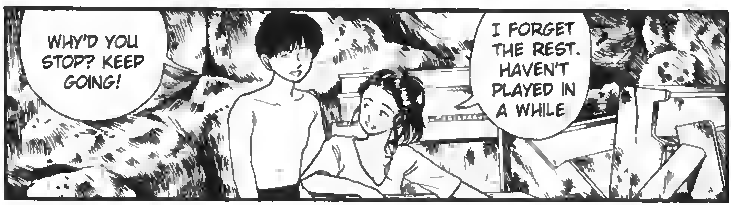

SO WE HID OUR OLD WORN-OUT ORGANS IN THE CAVE.

WHAT A FANTASTIC ECHO!


AN OLDER KID TOLD ME THAT. SO MAYBE IT'S JUST A TALL TALE.
BUT THERE REALLY ARE ORGANS IN THE CAVE.

A LOT OF MEMORIES, TOO...THAT'S WHERE I PROPOSED TO SAKUKO!
PAPA!

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO IN THERE.

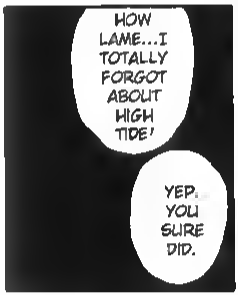

WHY'D YOU STOP? KEEP GOING!
I FORGET THE REST. HAVEN'T PLAYED IN A WHILE

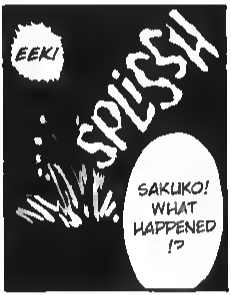
HA, HA, HA! WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING? THEY'RE JUST REMINISCING TOGETHER...
DIDN'T SUEKICHI HAVE A CRUSH ON SAKUKO?
CRU-CRUSH? HE WAS JUST A KID! THAT'S RIDICULOUS
HA HA HA HA
YOU CAN'T HIDE A THING. MUST RUN IN THE FAMILY.
ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY AYA?
WELL...IT'S COMPLICATED. WE CAN'T RIGHT NOW .
SHE'S REALLY NICE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE BRINGING YOUR TOKYO GIRLFRIEND!
BUT YOU DID GOOD. I'M IMPRESSED!

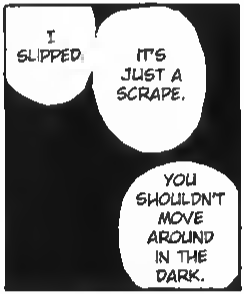
I STILL THINK OF YOU AS JUST A KID, BUT YOU'RE ALREADY 21!
WE BETTER GET GOING BEFORE THE FLASHLIGHT BATTERY RUNS OUT.
ARE YOU BLUSHING!?
UH-OH...
THEY'RE LATE.
IT'S ALMOST HIGH TIDE.
IS THAT BAD?
IT BLOCKS THE ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE.

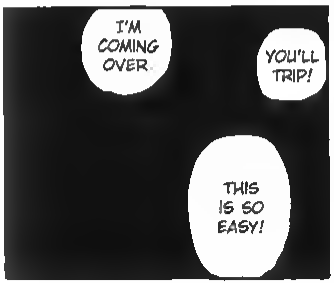
FSSSWWHHH

BATTERY'S DEAD.
IT'S PITCH BLACK.


HOW LAME...I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT HIGH TIDE!
YEP. YOU SURE DID.


EEK!
SPLISH!
SAKUKO! WHAT HAPPENED!?

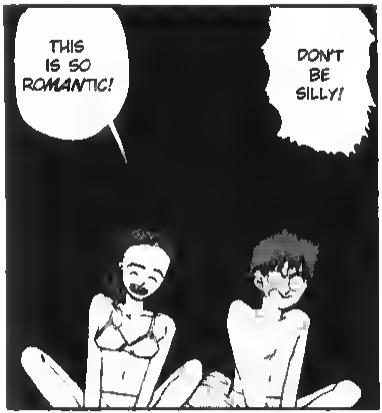

I SLIPPED.
IT'S JUST A SCRAPE.
YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE AROUND IN THE DARK.


I'M COMING OVER.
YOU'LL TRIP!
THIS IS SO EASY!

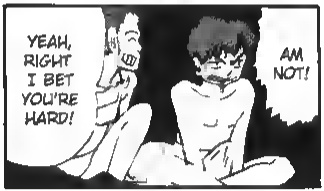
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

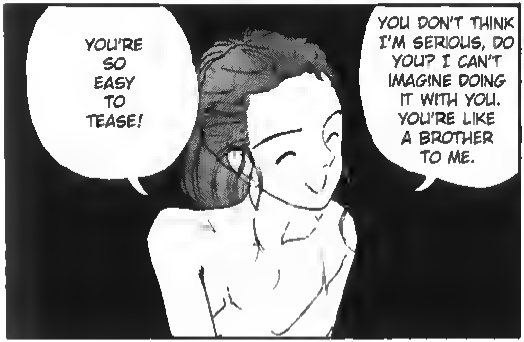
AHEM.
I KNOW. I KNOW
ARTIST

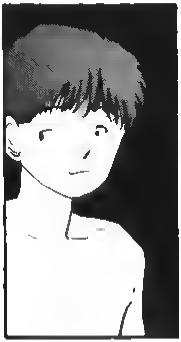
EEP!
WHA-!?
I HAD TO TAKE OFF MY WET CLOTHES! YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET SICK, DO YOU?
THEY MUST BE WAITING FOR LOW TIDE
WHEN'S THAT?
...IN SIX HOURS...
G-GET OFF...
AM I THAT HEAVY?

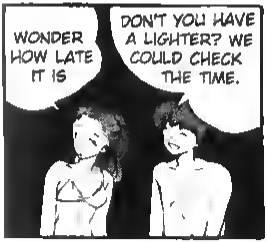

THIS IS SO ROMANTIC!
DON'T BE SILLY!

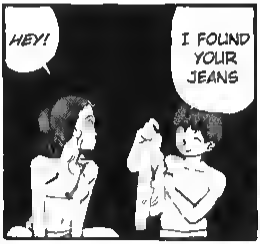
I'M NOT INTO KINKY SIBLING HIJINKS.
NEITHER AM I.

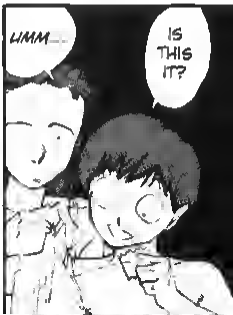

YEAH, RIGHT I BET YOU'RE HARD!
AM NOT!


YOU'RE SO EASY TO TEASE!
YOU DON'T THINK I'M SERIOUS, DO YOU? I CAN'T IMAGINE DOING IT WITH YOU. YOU'RE LIKE A BROTHER TO ME.




WONDER HOW LATE IT IS
DON'T YOU HAVE A LIGHTER? WE COULD CHECK THE TIME.

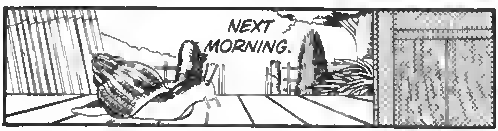

HEY!
I FOUND YOUR JEANS

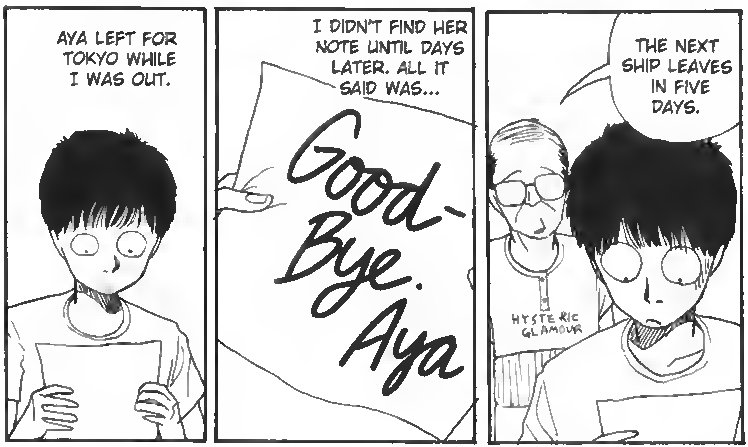

HMM...
IS THIS IT?

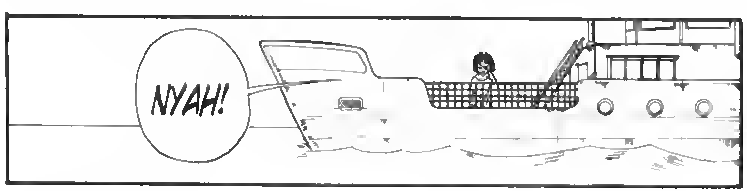
HEY! THIS FEELS LIKE..
...A COND..
JUST IN CASE! YOU NEVER KNOW, SO.. JUST IN CASE... HEH...
S-SO YOU DID THINK SOMETHING WAS GONNA HAPPEN BETWEEN US!
DOWN BOY!
I SAID, JUST IN CASE!
...
ALTHOUGH, I AM A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED.
SAKUKO...
GLOMP
OH! W-WE CAN'T...

SINKING
SURPRISE! WE CAME TO RESCUE...
...YOU.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG. I'M UNDRESSED BECAUSE I GOT SOAKED FALLING INTO THE WATER THEN I TRIPPED IN THE DARK AND YOU FOUND US RIGHT WHEN SUEKICHI CAUGHT ME.
ARE YOU ACCUSING ME? ARE YOU?
S-SAKUKO..
I-IT'S TRUE!
..

I-I'M SORRY! SORRY FOR EVEN DOUBTING YOU!
I'M GLAD THAT'S SETTLED

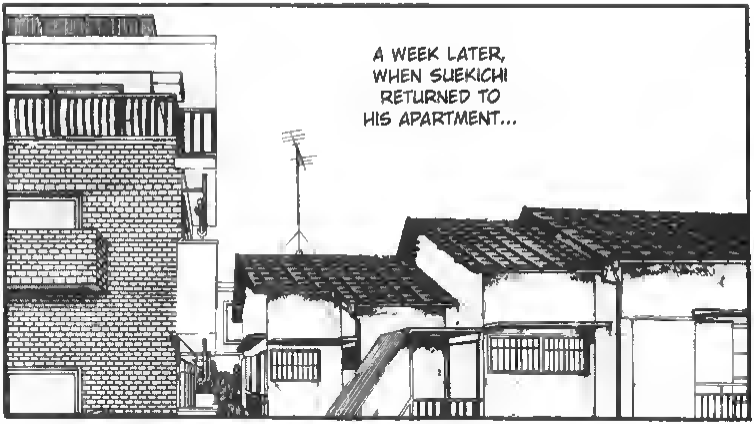

NEXT MORNING.

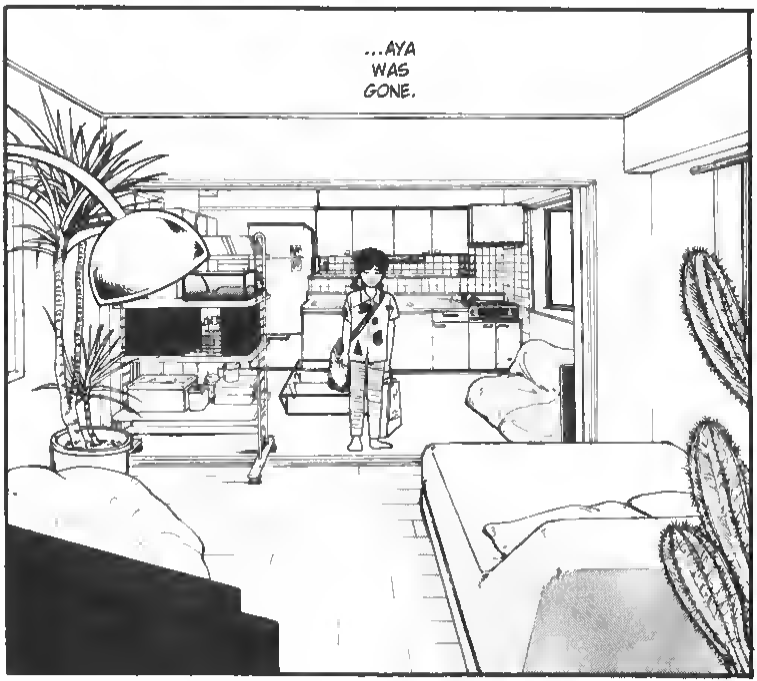

AYA LEFT FOR TOKYO WHILE I WAS OUT.
I DIDN'T FIND HER NOTE UNTIL DAYS LATER. ALL IT SAID WAS...
Good-Bye. Aya
THE NEXT SHIP LEAVES IN FIVE DAYS.
HYSTERIC GLAMOUR


NYAH!

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT THREE
WITHOUT AYA


A WEEK LATER, WHEN SUEKICHI RETURNED TO HIS APARTMENT...


...AYA WAS GONE.

LONG TIME NO SEE, SUEKICHI!
abidas
WEL-COME BACK!
WHERE'S AYA, FREDDY?
THANKS
FOR YOU
THE SECOND SHE CAME HOME, SHE THREW ALL HER STUFF INTO BAGS...
TELL HIM I HAD THE TIME OF MY LIFE!
...AND LEFT. HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE.
abidas

HEY... YOU DON'T TALK LIKE YOU USED TO...
IS THAT SO?
abidas
WELL, I CAN'T SPEAK UNGRAMMATICALLY FOREVER.
I PICK UP A LOT FROM TV.
YOU'RE A QUICK STUDY.
abidas
DON'T WORRY...
SHE'LL COME BACK EVENTUALLY.
BUT...
...SHE DIDN'T.

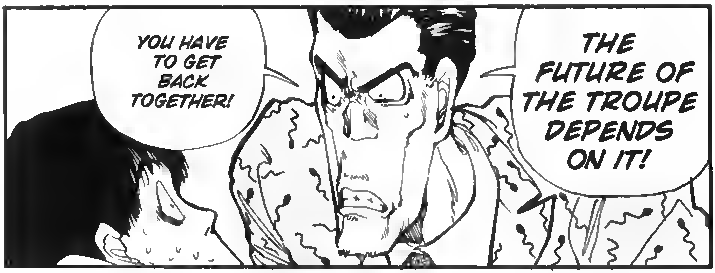
AYA'S GONE, BUT I STILL HAVE TO EAT...
SHINJI SLOOSH
SOMEONE HOLD ME!
IT'S NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL
PAYING ALL THE RENT WE USED TO SPLIT (IN FACT, I WAS PAYING 3/5THS) IS KIND OF A DRAG, THOUGH.
THANKS. AS SOON AS I GET PAID...
INTEREST FREE!
I BATHE WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT.
BING BONG

HOW'S IT HANGIN'!?
OH. IS THIS HOW YOU GREET COMPANY?
OOPS.
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT SOME-HOW...
MUST BE THE PROMOTION. I'M SELLING CONDOMS DOOR-TO-DOOR NOW.
FOR YOU.
IT'S GREAT! HOUSEWIVES SAYING, "I'D LIKE TO GIVE ONE A TEST RUN!" YOU KNOW...ON ME!
I'VE GOT NEWS...
OUR NEXT SHOW'S SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER.
NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE BACKING, WE CAN FINANCE OUR WILDEST DREAMS!
WHAT!? THAT SOON!?
MS. SHIMOMURA'S PUMPED! SHE WROTE THE SCRIPT IN THREE DAYS!
STINK!
AND THE VENUE IS...

...THE HONMA THEATER!
NO WAY!
YES WAY!
THE BEST SMALL THEATER IN TOWN? SEATING CAPACITY 500? AIR-CONDITIONED? AND, INEXPLICABLY, AN ENTIRELY PLUS-SIZED STAFF? THAT HONMA THEATER?
TOO MUCH DETAIL!
ANYWAY, I'M PSYCHED. THANKS TO AYA, WE DON'T HAVE TO SWEAT THE FINANCING, SO WE CAN PUT ALL OUR ENERGY INTO THE PERFORMANCE!
HUH?
WELL...
AIEEEEE

YOU HAD A FIGHT AND BROKE UP WITH AYA!?
WELL, IT'S NOT FINAL YET. IT'S BEEN LESS THAN--

BUT I FEEL LIKE... IT'S OVER.
OH MY GOD.
YOU IDIOT! WE'VE GOTTA PAY THE THEATER UP FRONT IN TWO DAYS!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT WE'RE JUST NOT CONNECTING. MAYBE--
AARRGH!
YOU'VE GOT TO KISS AND MAKE UP!
HUHP
RIGHT AWAY! WHERE'S THAT OLD FART'S PHONE NUMBER? IS THIS IT?
B-BUT...
HERE.
HELLO? HELLO?
H-HELLO... MAY I SPEAK TO AYA, PLEASE?
I'M SORRY, SHE'S NOT IN.
WELL, THAT'S THAT...
NO, IT ISN'T.


YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TOGETHER!
THE FUTURE OF THE TROUPE DEPENDS ON IT!

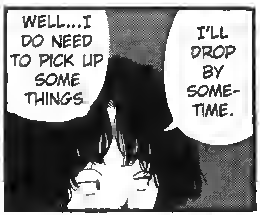
SLAMM
BRRRING!!

IT'S ME...

SO YOU'RE BACK, HUH?
SO YOU WERE THERE!
DON'T TAKE THAT TONE WITH ME. I'LL HANG UP.

I-I'M SORRY...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

LET'S TALK FACE-TO FACE...
... OKAY ...?


WELL...I DO NEED TO PICK UP SOME THINGS.
I'LL DROP BY SOME-TIME.

DING DONG
EWW! THE PLACE SMELLS AWFUL!
IKEZU COOKED SOME DRIED MACKEREL.
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT SOMEHOW.
I WANNA TRY SOME
THE DRESS? PAPA GEN BOUGHT IT FOR ME. MY FUNERAL GET-UP FOR WHEN HE CROAKS.
I FIGURE I'LL NEED A HOT OUTFIT TO SNAG MY NEXT HUSBAND A.S.A.P.
"PAPA" GEN?
HE BUYS ME WHATEVER I WANT, SO I DON'T REALLY NEED TO PICK UP MUCH... EXCEPT FOR A FEW OF MY FAVORITE UNDIES...
STOP!
WHAT?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU!

W-WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS...
EVERYTHING WAS MY FAULT! SO YOU SHOULD FORGIVE ME AND COME BACK!
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE DISCREET ON THE ISLAND. BUT NOTHING HAPPENED, I SWEAR! YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME!
I MEAN, ISN'T OUR RELATIONSHIP STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS AND TRIVIAL?
YAY, BEER!
ARE YOU THAT MAD...?
NOT AT ALL.
S-SO YOU'LL COME BACK?
NOPE.

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD A WORD I SAID!?
KNAP
OOPS, SORRY.
...
I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY. I GOT CARRIED AWAY. BUT YOU ARE ACTING KIND OF STRANGE, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT. YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY...
I'M JUST BEING MYSELF.
PLEASE DON'T TORTURE ME LIKE THIS!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ACTING STRANGE. CHILL OUT, ALREADY.
DON'T BE SO BITTER. I'M APOLOGIZING TO YOU. COME ON, LET'S BE OPEN WITH EACH OTHER.
...
IS THIS HOW YOU TREATED MUNAKATA!?
SEE YA. MY CAR'S WAITING.

IS IT OVER!?
WHOA!
AYA...
DON'T WORRY, I LEFT YOU THE APPLIANCES.
AH!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?
EH?
gasp

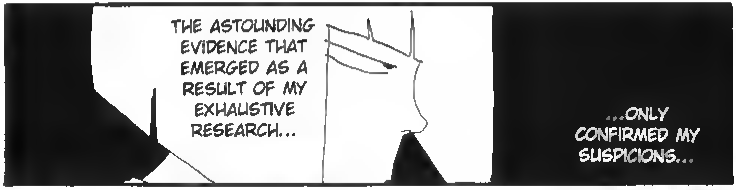
ARE WE GONNA DO IT?
THAT'S NOT THE POINT..
YOU JUST WANT ME FOR MY BODY.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT..
..I LOVE YOU..
HOW CONVEN-IENT

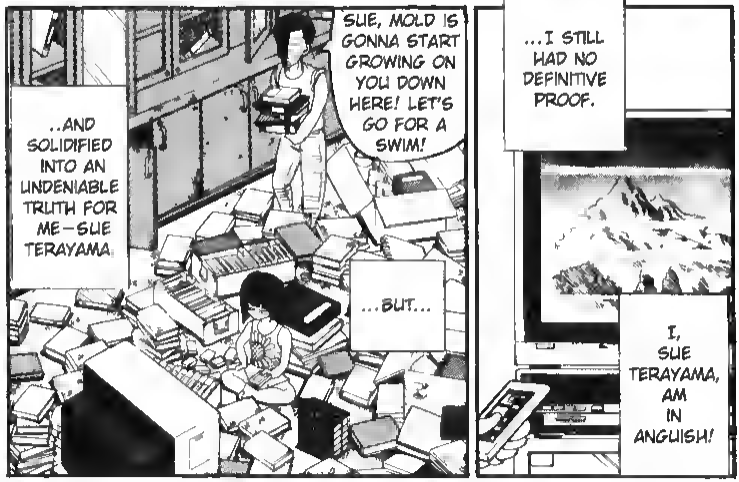
AHH!
TROUBLE UNHOOKING IT?
DON'T TEAR IT! THIS DRESS IS REALLY EXPENSIVE.
PRRT
OOPS I FARTED.

PEE-YOO! SMELLY! MUST BE THE DRIED MACKEREL.
SO WE'RE NOT DOING IT?
LOST MY HARD-ON...
I'LL BE GOING THEN!
... HEY ...
OH, AS FAR AS THE TROUPE GOES...GEN SAYS TO SEND HIM ALL THE INVOICES AND HE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERY-THING.
...WELL, AT LEAST THAT'S RESOLVED...
...BUT...

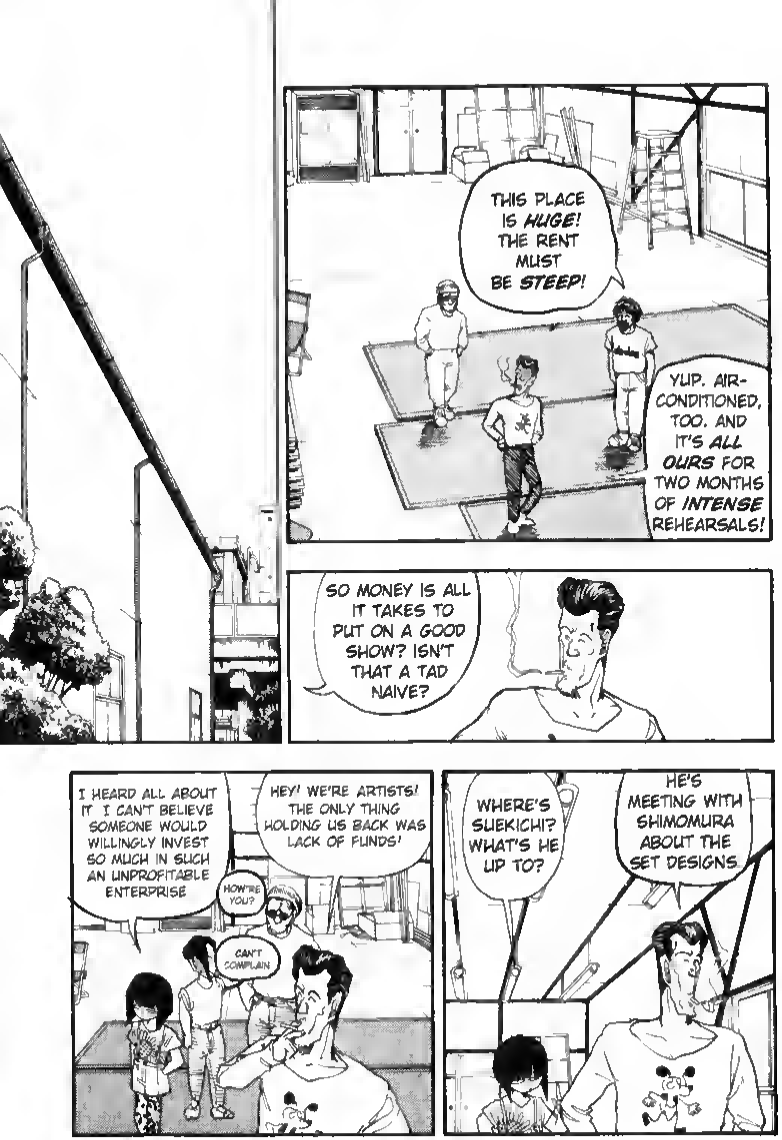
100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

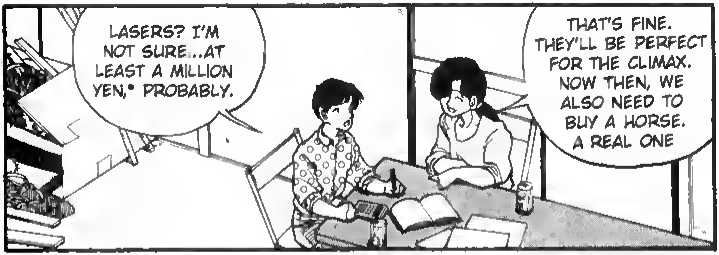
ACT FOUR
NOWHERE MAN


THE ASTOUNDING EVIDENCE THAT EMERGED AS A RESULT OF MY EXHAUSTIVE RESEARCH...
...ONLY CONFIRMED MY SUSPICIONS...

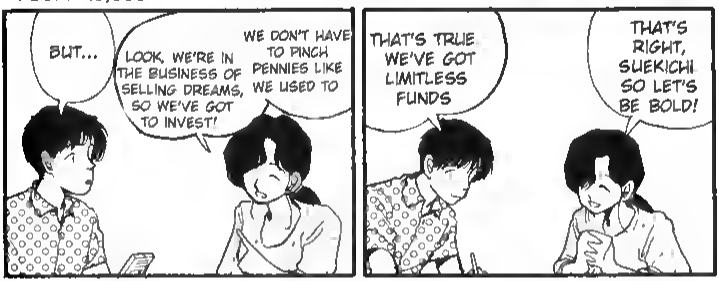

...AND SOLIDIFIED INTO AN UNDENIABLE TRUTH FOR ME—SUE TERAYAMA.
SUE, MOLD IS GONNA START GROWING ON YOU DOWN HERE! LET'S GO FOR A SWIM!
...BUT...
...I STILL HAD NO DEFINITIVE PROOF.
I, SUE TERAYAMA, AM IN ANGUISH!

I CAN'T STAND TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS, SUE!
ENOUGH ALREADY!
YOU THINK I'M THAT EASY?
NO OK
NO OK
HEY! THIS IS...


THIS PLACE IS HUGE! THE RENT MUST BE STEEP!
YUP. AIR-CONDITIONED, TOO. AND IT'S ALL OURS FOR TWO MONTHS OF INTENSE REHEARSALS!
SO MONEY IS ALL IT TAKES TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW? ISN'T THAT A TAD NAIVE?
I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE WOULD WILLINGLY INVEST SO MUCH IN SUCH AN UNPROFITABLE ENTERPRISE
HEY! WE'RE ARTISTS! THE ONLY THING HOLDING US BACK WAS LACK OF FUNDS!
HOW'RE YOU?
CAN'T COMPLAIN
WHERE'S SUEKICHI? WHAT'S HE UP TO?
HE'S MEETING WITH SHIMOMURA ABOUT THE SET DESIGNS


LASERS? I'M NOT SURE...AT LEAST A MILLION YEN,* PROBABLY.
THAT'S FINE. THEY'LL BE PERFECT FOR THE CLIMAX. NOW THEN, WE ALSO NEED TO BUY A HORSE. A REAL ONE

*ABOUT $10,000


BUT...
LOOK, WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING DREAMS, SO WE'VE GOT TO INVEST!
WE DON'T HAVE TO PINCH PENNIES LIKE WE USED TO
THAT'S TRUE WE'VE GOT LIMITLESS FUNDS
THAT'S RIGHT, SUEKICHI SO LET'S BE BOLD!

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS, HUH? AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO AYA!

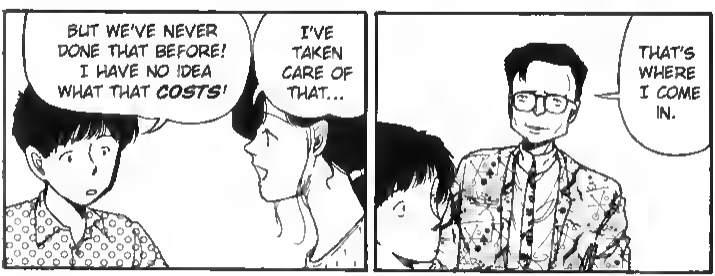
IS AYA PERFORM-ING THIS TIME, TOO?
OF COURSE.

HELLO!
TALKING ABOUT ME?
GOOD MORNING, AYA.

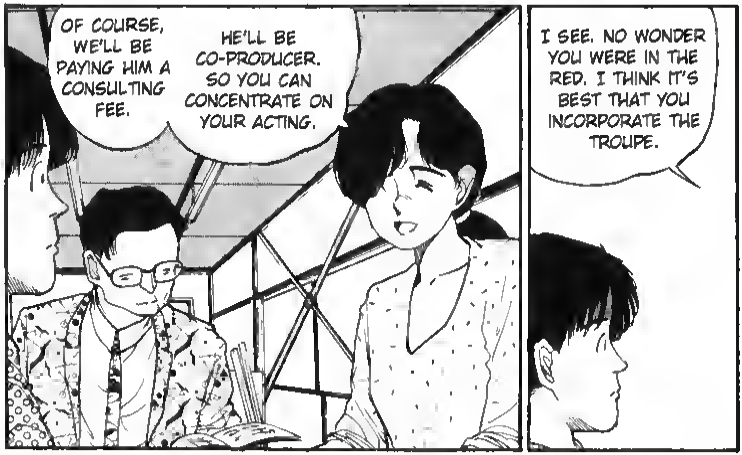
YOU'RE PERFORMING AGAIN? WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?
GEN SAID HE'LL DROP BY LATER TO CHECK THINGS OUT.
OH, GOOD. WE CAN THANK HIM IN PERSON THEN.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU TWO?
...NO...
SHOULD HE BE OUT AND ABOUT? DOESN'T HE HAVE A BAD HEART?
WHAT DO YOU CARE IF HE KICKS OFF?
I BET IT DID. IT'S OBVIOUS! LOOK HOW STAND-OFFISH SHE'S BEING!
CONFESS. YOU CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM ME.
NOW AS FAR AS THE COSTUMES GO, I THINK...
GO AHEAD, IGNORE ME. I'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH.
WE SHOULD MAKE THEM OURSELVES, SO WE CAN USE THEM AGAIN...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND SUE, TOO?

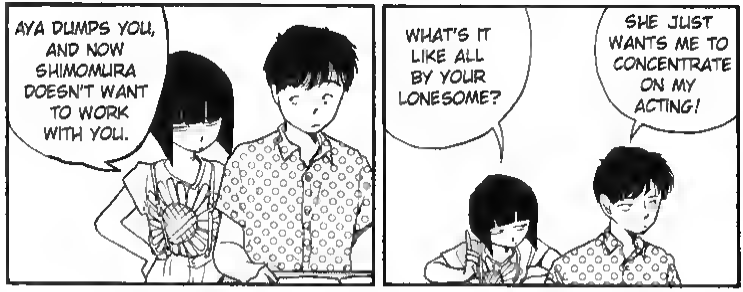
OH, IN TERMS OF THE ADS, I THINK WE SHOULD GO ALL OUT.
IS MS. SHIMO-MURA HERE?
"TV AD"?

LOTS OF STUDENTS WATCH LATE-NIGHT TV. SO WHY NOT RUN A FIVE-SECOND SPOT?
WE'LL ATTRACT A WIDER AUDIENCE.

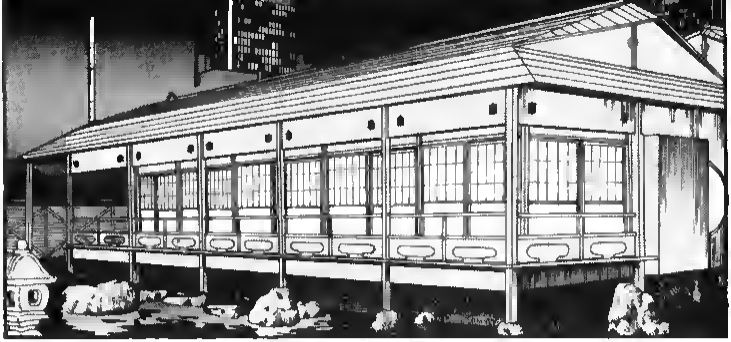

BUT WE'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT COSTS!
I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT...
THAT'S WHERE I COME IN.

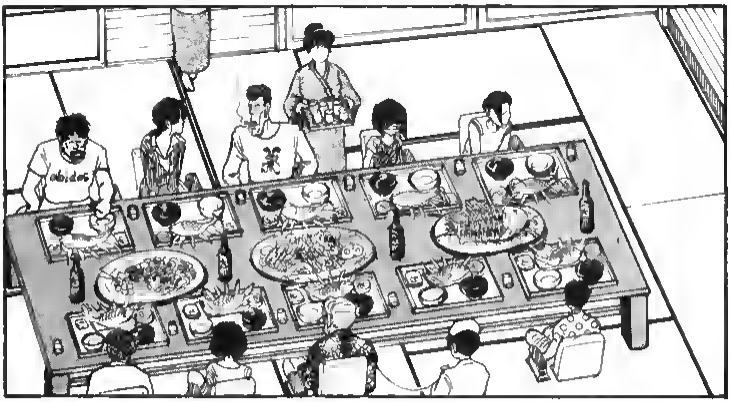
HUH?
WE WENT TO HIGH-SCHOOL TOGETHER. NAME'S KARASUI.
HE WORKS FOR A TV PRODUCTION COMPANY. I THOUGHT HE COULD GIVE US A HAND.

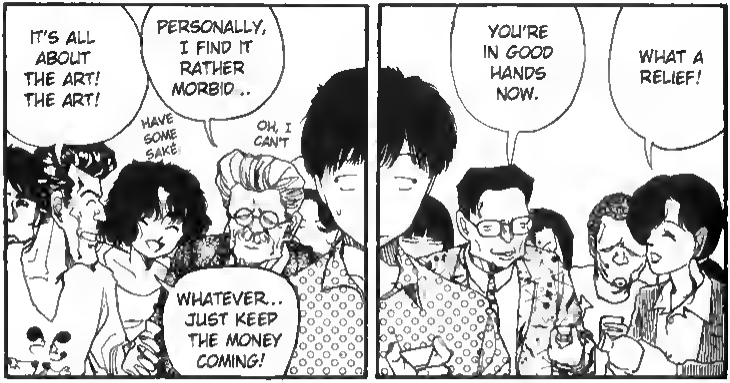

OF COURSE, WE'LL BE PAYING HIM A CONSULTING FEE.
HE'LL BE CO-PRODUCER. SO YOU CAN CONCENTRATE ON YOUR ACTING.
I SEE. NO WONDER YOU WERE IN THE RED. I THINK IT'S BEST THAT YOU INCORPORATE THE TROUPE.


AYA DUMPS YOU, AND NOW SHIMOMURA DOESN'T WANT TO WORK WITH YOU.
WHAT'S IT LIKE ALL BY YOUR LONESOME?
SHE JUST WANTS ME TO CONCENTRATE ON MY ACTING!

OH YEAH? LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE BEING TOSSED OUT ON THE STREET.
HELLO, EVERYONE.
WELCOME! WE'RE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
NO BIGGIE. HE'S LOADED.
TRUE. PLEASE SPEND WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO CREATE A STUNNING PERFORM-ANCE
LOOKS LIKE YOUR ACCOUNTING TROUBLES ARE OVER, TOO.
IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE TO INVITE YOU ALL TO DINNER AFTER TODAY'S REHEARSAL
YIPPEE!

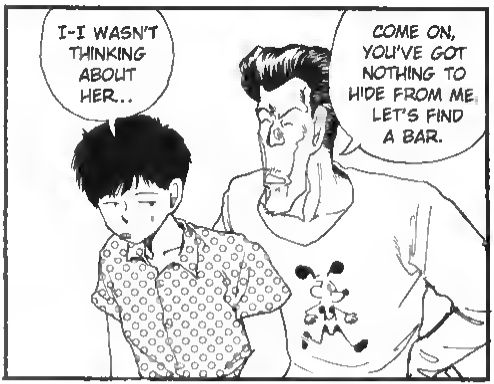





IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ART! THE ART!
PERSONALLY, I FIND IT RATHER MORBID ..
HAVE SOME SAKÉ
OH, I CAN'T
WHATEVER.. JUST KEEP THE MONEY COMING!
YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS NOW.
WHAT A RELIEF!

THANK YOU, SIR.

GOODNIGHT
AYA LEFT WITH THE OLD MAN.

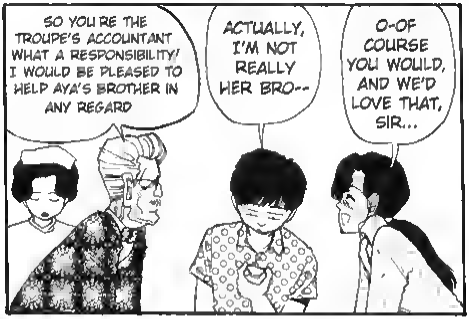

I-I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT HER..
COME ON, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE FROM ME. LET'S FIND A BAR.

GO AHEAD. YOU CAN SHARE YOUR TROUBLES.
I TOLD YOU, I'M FINE!

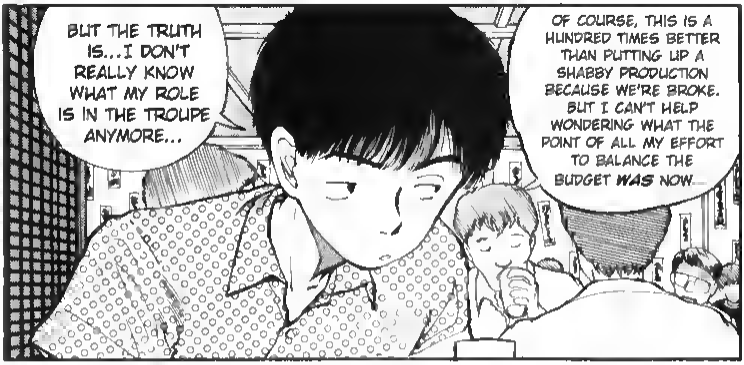
3F
旬の味
河鹿
アジ生

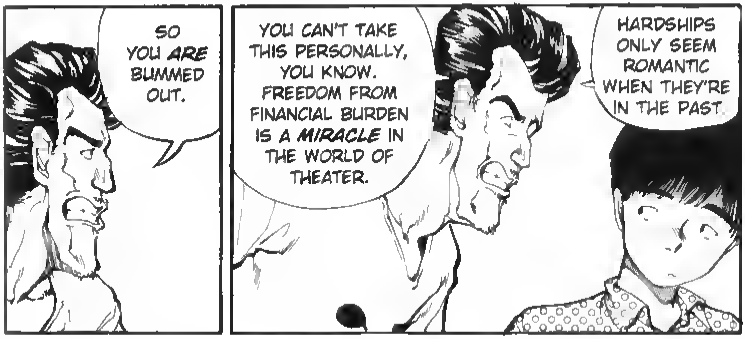
SO YOU SPLIT UP. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THERE'S PLENTY OF OTHER WOMEN OUT THERE. NO POINT IN GETTING BUMMED OUT OVER EVERY ONE YOU MEET.
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT BUMMED OUT!

YOU'VE GOT AN ATTI-TUDE PROB-LEM.

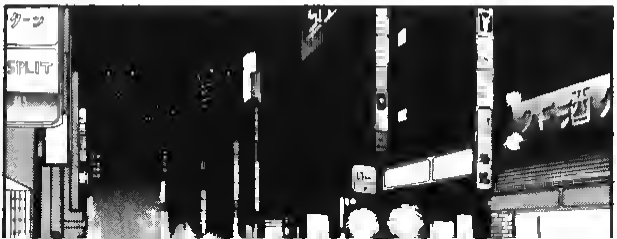

SO YOU'RE THE TROUPE'S ACCOUNTANT WHAT A RESPONSIBILITY! I WOULD BE PLEASED TO HELP AYA'S BROTHER IN ANY REGARD
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT REALLY HER BRO--
O-OF COURSE YOU WOULD, AND WE'D LOVE THAT, SIR...

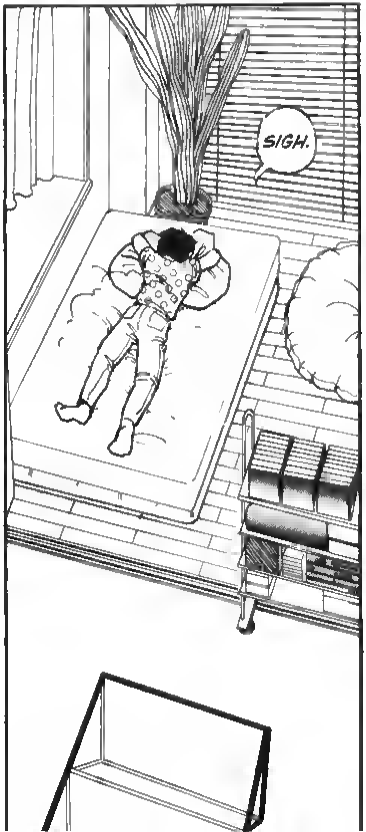
WHAT IF HE FINDS OUT YOU'RE NOT AYA'S BROTHER?
DON'T WORRY, I WOULD NEVER JEOPARDIZE THE TROUPE

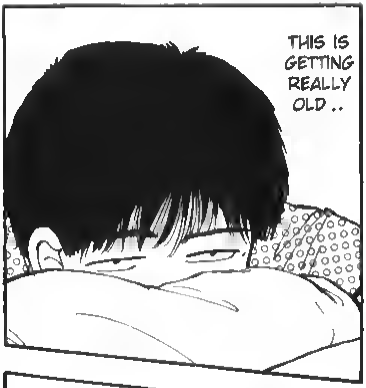

BUT THE TRUTH IS...I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT MY ROLE IS IN THE TROUPE ANYMORE...
OF COURSE, THIS IS A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER THAN PUTTING UP A SHABBY PRODUCTION BECAUSE WE'RE BROKE. BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDERING WHAT THE POINT OF ALL MY EFFORT TO BALANCE THE BUDGET *WAS* NOW.


SO YOU *ARE* BUMMED OUT.
YOU CAN'T TAKE THIS PERSONALLY, YOU KNOW. FREEDOM FROM FINANCIAL BURDEN IS A *MIRACLE* IN THE WORLD OF THEATER.
HARDSHIPS ONLY SEEM ROMANTIC WHEN THEY'RE IN THE PAST.

SPOILED STUDENTS LIKE YOU ARE SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS.

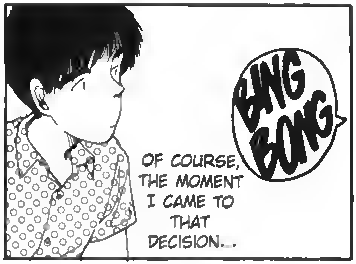

SPLIT


SIGH.

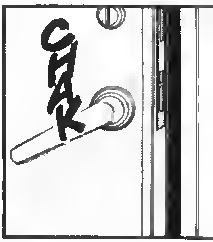

THIS IS GETTING REALLY OLD..

WHY WOULD AYA WANT TO HANG OUT WITH ME, ANYWAY...

FINE.
I'M DONE.


BING BONG
OF COURSE, THE MOMENT I CAME TO THAT DECISION...

NO, I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS ANYMORE.


CLICK

GOOD EVENING.

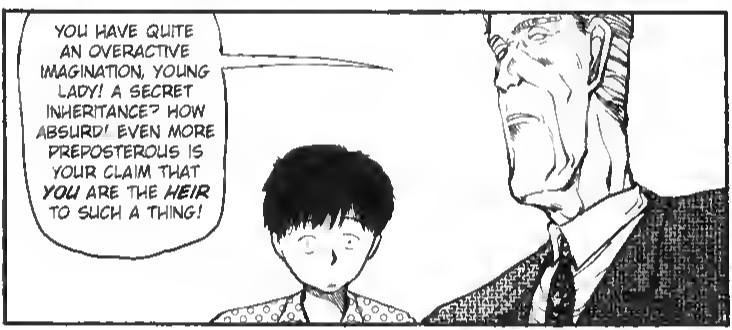
WHAT IS IT, SIR?
A CRISIS. I FELT COMPELLED TO INFORM YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

I'M NOT SURE HOW THIS INDIVIDUAL LEARNED OF THE INHERITANCE...
...BUT SHE INSISTS THAT SHE IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR INSTEAD OF YOU!
AND THAT'S ME!

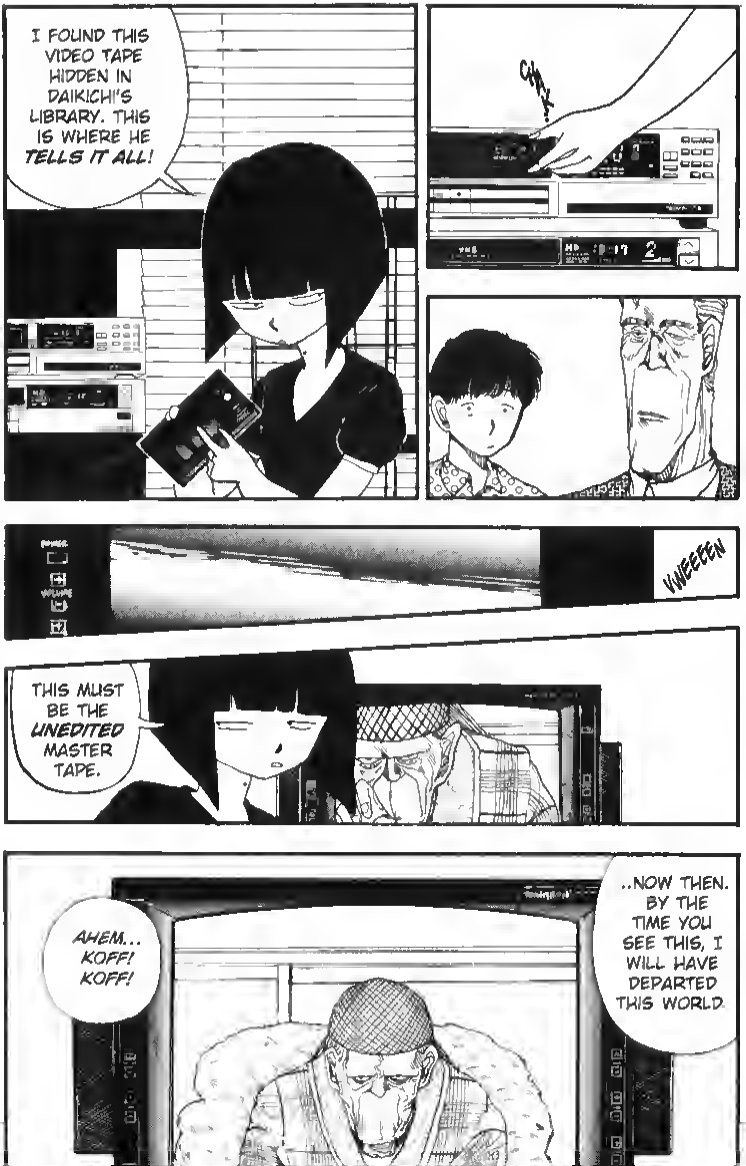
100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT FIVE
HEIR APPARENT

SUE CAN BE SO HEART-LESS


YOU HAVE QUITE AN OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION, YOUNG LADY! A SECRET INHERITANCE? HOW ABSURD! EVEN MORE PREPOSTEROUS IS YOUR CLAIM THAT *YOU* ARE THE *HEIR* TO SUCH A THING!

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME! I'VE GOT IRREFUTABLE PROOF!
I'LL *SHOW* YOU. IT PROVES *WITHOUT A SHADOW OF A DOUBT* THAT I, *SUE TERAYAMA*, AM THE RIGHTFUL HEIR.


I FOUND THIS VIDEO TAPE HIDDEN IN DAIKICHI'S LIBRARY. THIS IS WHERE HE TELLS IT ALL!
CHK!
WEEEEN
THIS MUST BE THE UNEDITED MASTER TAPE.
AHEM... KOFF! KOFF!
..NOW THEN. BY THE TIME YOU SEE THIS, I WILL HAVE DEPARTED THIS WORLD.

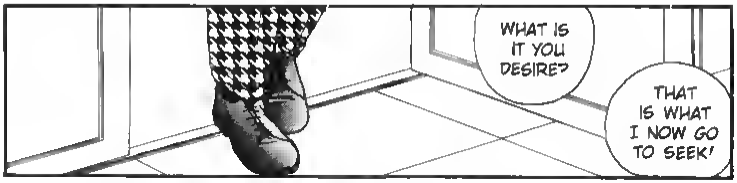
(ETC...) OF ALL MY RELATIVES, YOU, SUEKICHI, WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO ALWAYS CAME OVER TO PLAY, BRINGING ME A FEW RARE MOMENTS OF JOY.
EVEN NOW, I CAN CLOSE MY EYES AND REMEMBER THE HILLS AND STREAMS WHERE WE GAMBOLED..
(ETC.) AND SO, ON THE OCCASION OF MY JOURNEY TO THE NETHERWORLD...
I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE GIFT
ACCORDING TO HIS DIARIES AND OTHER SOURCES, SUEKICHI ONLY VISITED THE OLD MAN THREE TIMES. I'M THE ONE WHO ALWAYS WENT TO SEE HIM. AND THE KID IN HIS PHOTO ALBUM HAS A MOLE ON HER NECK-- SO IT HAS TO BE ME!
BASICALLY, THE OLD MAN WAS SO SENILE HE CONFUSED MY CHILD-HOOD WITH SUEKICHI'S
BUT WHY DO YOU INSIST ON RECEIVING THE INHERITANCE? YOUR FAMILY IS WELL OFF AFTER ALL, THEY INHERITED MY CLIENT'S HOUSE!
SHE JUST LIKES TO HARASS ME THAT'S THE KIND OF GIRL SHE IS

HOW DARE YOU! I'M JUST AN INNOCENT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ASKING FOR WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY MINE!
FINE THEN-- TAKE HALF!
DON'T BE RECKLESS. WHY DON'T YOU PUT UP A FIGHT? YOU HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO--
WHO CARES!? JUST TAKE IT!
NOW, NOW..
IT'S TRUE .THERE IS A SECRET INHERITANCE. BUT EVEN IF YOU HAD A RIGHT TO IT, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT TEN YEARS TO INHERIT IT. DON'T YOU THINK WE'D ALL BE BETTER OFF KEEPING THIS A SECRET UNTIL THE ISSUE IS RESOLVED?
HOW DIPLOMATIC GUESS THAT COMES WITH AGE ALL RIGHT, I'VE MADE MY POINT FOR TODAY
I'VE GOT HOMEWORK TO DO.
I'LL GIVE YOU ALL OF IT IF YOU'LL JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN HOODWINK ME.
I TRUST NO ONE.

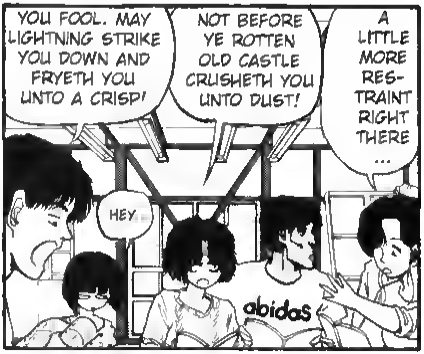
DO YOU THINK SHE'S SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?
WELL, SHE'S ONLY IN JUNIOR HIGH. AND SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW THE EXACT SUM.
THIS CAN'T BE RESOLVED THROUGH LEGAL CHANNELS, SINCE THE SECRET INHERITANCE IS ITSELF ILLEGAL
BUT..IF DAIKICHI *WAS* IN FACT MISTAKEN ABOUT YOUR IDENTITY, HER CLAIM IS INDISPUTABLE... THEN AGAIN, DAIKICHI CLEARLY DESIGNATED *YOUR* NAME AS THE...
AND IF HE *WAS* SENILE...BUT EVEN IF HE WAS..AS FOR HIS *TRUE* INTENTIONS...I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT HE..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME YOU CAN GIVE THE WHOLE THING TO SUE, FOR ALL I CARE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
I MEAN IT. IF THIS IS GOING TO TURN INTO SOME LONG, MESSY ORDEAL, I'D RATHER JUST BOW OUT.
IT DIDN'T FEEL REAL THE DAY YOU TOLD ME ABOUT IT, AND IT STILL DOESN'T. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN JUST A FANTASY.
IT'S REALLY NOT A BIG DEAL.

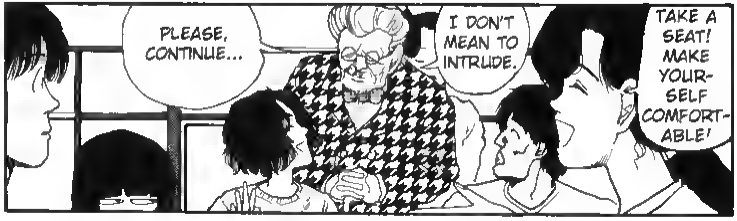
.....
WELL, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO LOOK INTO THIS ANYWAY. YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT I'M WORKING IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS.
AFTER I LOSE THE INHERITANCE..
..AYA WON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO BE WITH ME AT ALL.
THE READING STARTS IN 15 MINUTES, OKAY!?

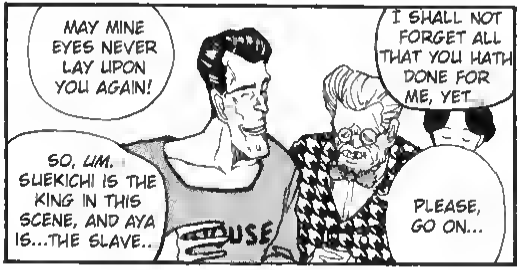
DON'T BE SO BUMMED. I'LL SHARE IT WITH YOU.
HAIL! WHO GOES THERE?
THE CASTLE GATE OPENS. SUEKICHI AND AYA ARE INSIDE.
SO IT WAS ALL JUST "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING," ...
WHAT SAYEST THOU IS REMISS IN ME? NAUGHT!
THAT IS WHAT IS REMISS IN YOU!
SUEKICHI, SLOW DOWN!
SO YOU FORSAKE ME? OUTSIDE THIS CASTLE DOTH RAGE A STORM!
I WOULDST RATHER BE OUT THERE THAN IN HERE WITH THEE!
YOU DO NOT FATHOM ME! AFTER RESIDING IN THIS CASTLE FOR 100 YEARS, THE VEIL HAS LIFTED FROM MINE EYES AND I SEE THAT...
..HERE I CAN NEVER BE GLAD!


WHAT IS IT YOU DESIRE?
THAT IS WHAT I NOW GO TO SEEK!

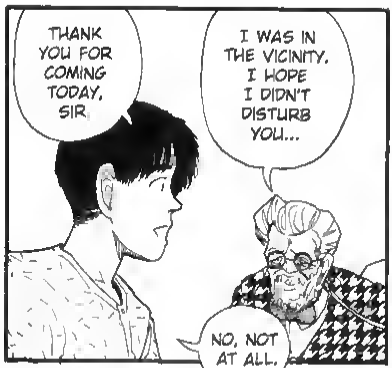
ISN'T THIS HITTING A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO HOME..?
I TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU NOW, I TELL YOU!
SO FICTION MIRRORS REALITY...


YOU FOOL. MAY LIGHTNING STRIKE YOU DOWN AND FRYETH YOU UNTO A CRISP!
NOT BEFORE YE ROTTEN OLD CASTLE CRUSHETH YOU UNTO DUST!
A LITTLE MORE RESTRAINT RIGHT THERE ...
HEY
abidas


PLEASE, CONTINUE...
I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE.
TAKE A SEAT! MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE!

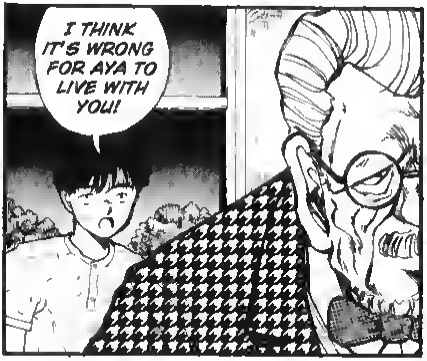

MAY MINE EYES NEVER LAY UPON YOU AGAIN!
I SHALL NOT FORGET ALL THAT YOU HATH DONE FOR ME, YET
SO, UM. SUEKICHI IS THE KING IN THIS SCENE, AND AYA IS...THE SLAVE..
PLEASE, GO ON...

GOODBYE, ALL!
YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY.
AYA WENT THAT WAY WHY DON'T YOU GO AFTER HER?
YOU KNOW YOU WANT TO!
YOU'VE GOT A HUMONGOUS CRUSH ON ME
THAT'S WHY YOU FOLLOW ME AROUND LIKE A DOG!
YOUR ACTING IS VERY AUTHENTIC.
TH-TH-THAT'S RI-RIDICU-LOUS!
WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING, SUE!?


THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY, SIR.
I WAS IN THE VICINITY. I HOPE I DIDN'T DISTURB YOU...
NO, NOT AT ALL.

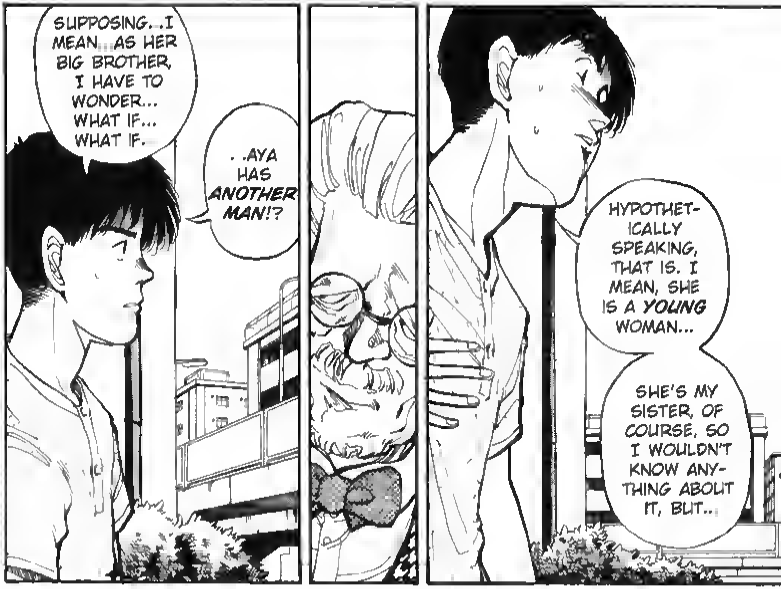
...YES?

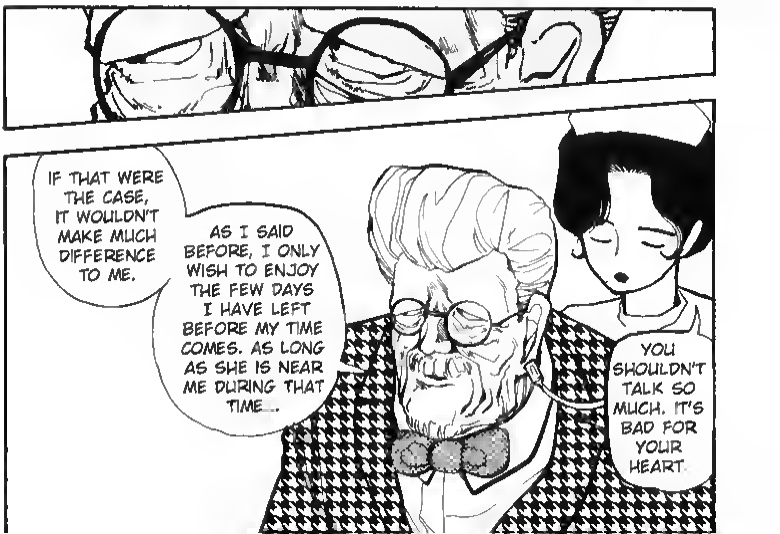
WELL... UH...
I'LL BE GOING THEN.

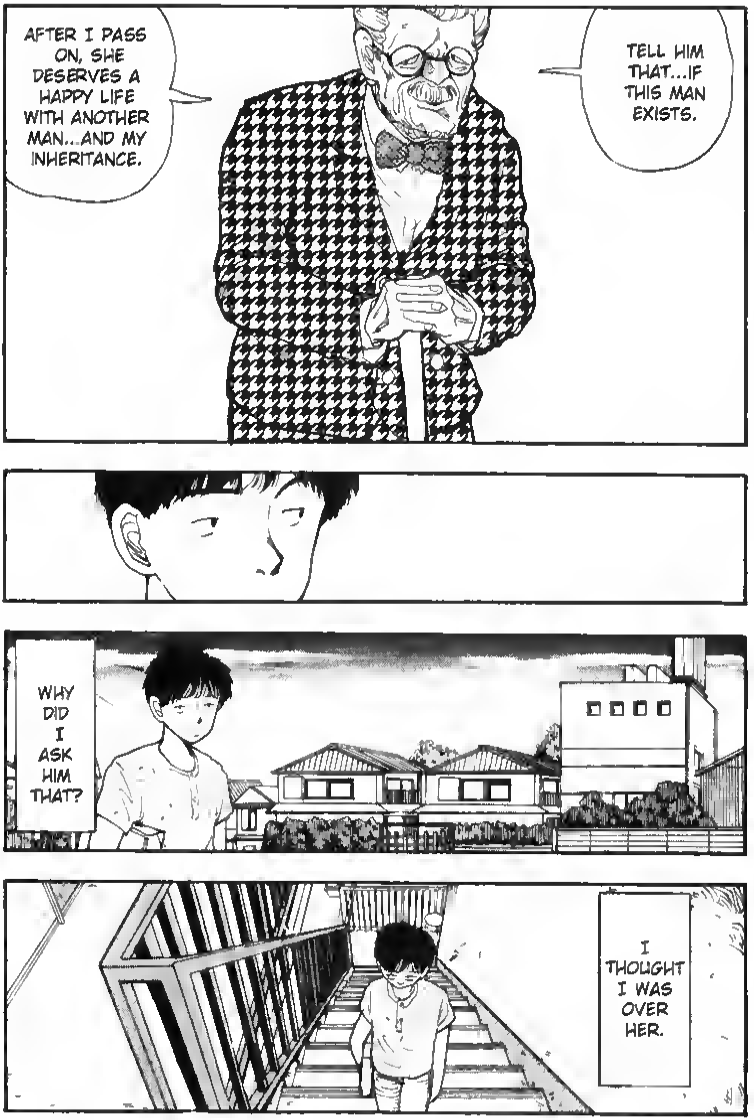

I THINK IT'S WRONG FOR AYA TO LIVE WITH YOU!

SPEAKING AS HER BIG BROTHER, OF COURSE...IT'S JUST THAT...EVEN IF YOU EVENTUALLY GET MARRIED ...HER DIVORCE PAPERS HAVEN'T COME THROUGH YET, AND..
BUT AYA ISN'T LIVING WITH ME.

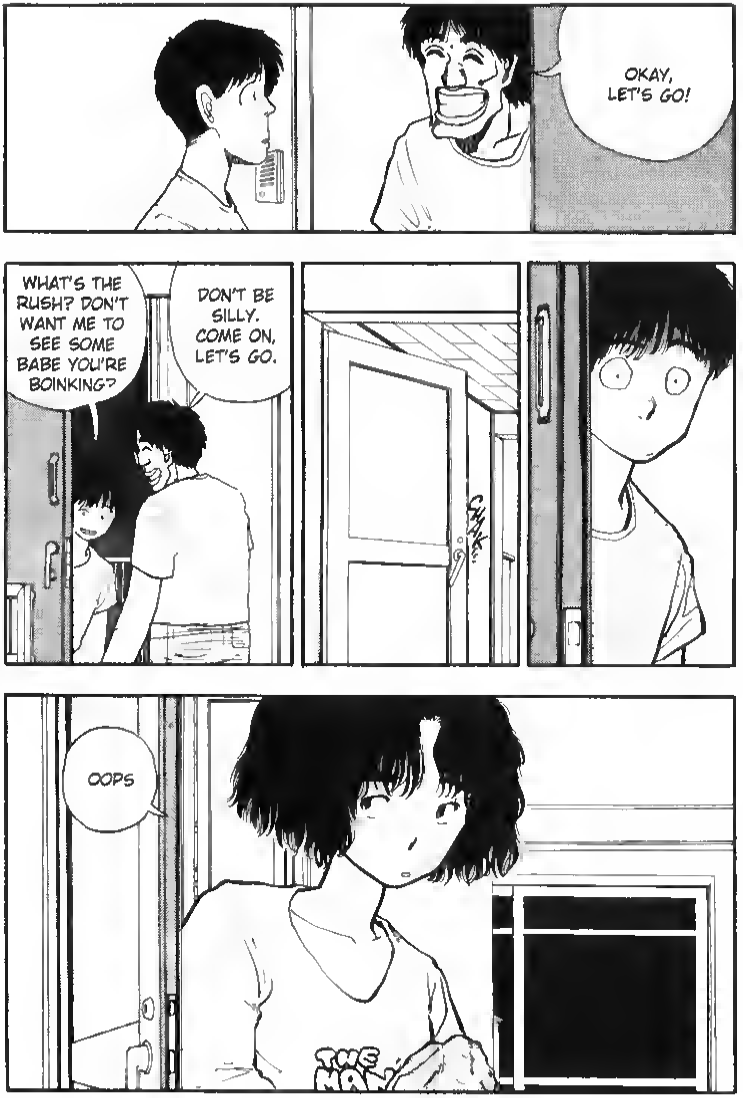
HUH?
SHE HASN'T EVEN VISITED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. ALTHOUGH SHE HAS TELEPHONED...
...IS THAT SO...
YES. WELL, THEN...
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE...?


SUPPOSING...I MEAN, AS HER BIG BROTHER, I HAVE TO WONDER... WHAT IF... WHAT IF...
...AYA HAS *ANOTHER MAN!?*
HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING, THAT IS. I MEAN, SHE IS A *YOUNG* WOMAN...
SHE'S MY SISTER, OF COURSE, SO I WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT...


IF THAT WERE THE CASE, IT WOULDN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE TO ME.
AS I SAID BEFORE, I ONLY WISH TO ENJOY THE FEW DAYS I HAVE LEFT BEFORE MY TIME COMES. AS LONG AS SHE IS NEAR ME DURING THAT TIME...
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK SO MUCH. IT'S BAD FOR YOUR HEART.


AFTER I PASS ON, SHE DESERVES A HAPPY LIFE WITH ANOTHER MAN...AND MY INHERITANCE.
TELL HIM THAT...IF THIS MAN EXISTS.
WHY DID I ASK HIM THAT?
I THOUGHT I WAS OVER HER.

CAN'T SEEM TO LET GO...
FREDDY! TIME FOR OUR SHIFT!
CLICK


OKAY, LET'S GO!
WHAT'S THE RUSH? DON'T WANT ME TO SEE SOME BABE YOU'RE BOINKING?
DON'T BE SILLY. COME ON, LET'S GO.
CHINK
OOPS

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

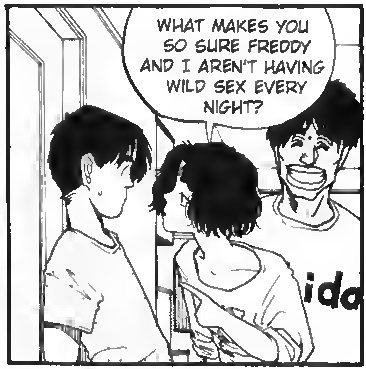
ACT SIX

WELCOME HOME!?

IT TURNS OUT AYA'S BEEN STAYING WITH...
..FREDDY, ALL THIS TIME!

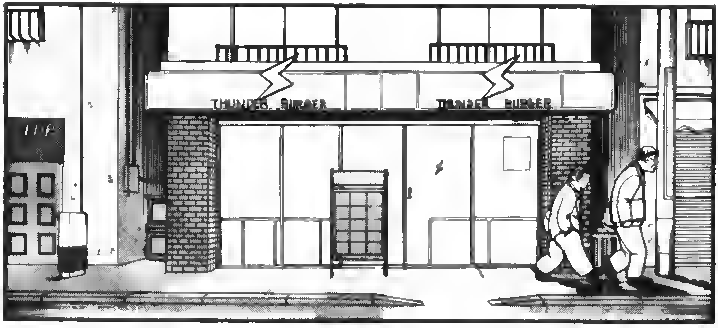
YEAH.
SO?

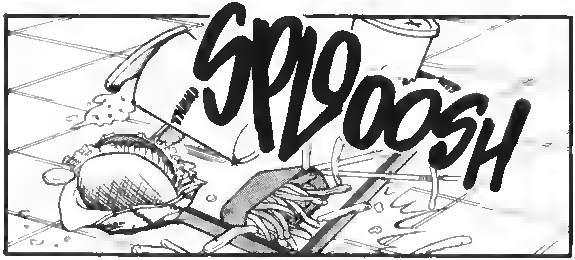
YOU PRETENDED YOU WERE SHACKING UP WITH THE OLD GEEZER, BUT YOU WERE HERE ALL ALONG TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME!


WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE FREDDY AND I AREN'T HAVING WILD SEX EVERY NIGHT?

FREDDY'S SO STRONG AND TALL AND HE'S DYNAMITE IN BED. HE CAN DO IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN HE'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL
I'M CRAZY ABOUT HIM!
HOW NICE FOR YOU. HOPE IT LASTS. I'M SURE YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS WILL LIVE THE LIFE OF LEISURE WITH GENICHIRO'S INHERITANCE.
OH, IT'LL BE NOTHING COMPARED TO YOUR LIFESTYLE.
A TAX-FREE, SECRET INHERITANCE... WE SHOULD BE SO LUCKY!
NOW, NOW! STOP BEING SO STUBBORN, YOU TWO!
JEALOUS, ARE YOU?
abidas

ANYWAY, AS IT TURNS OUT, I WON'T BE EVADING ANY TAXES AFTER ALL
IT LOOKS LIKE SUE IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR. SO SHE'LL GET EVERY LAST YEN.
SEE YOU!
HURRY UP, WE'LL BE LATE.

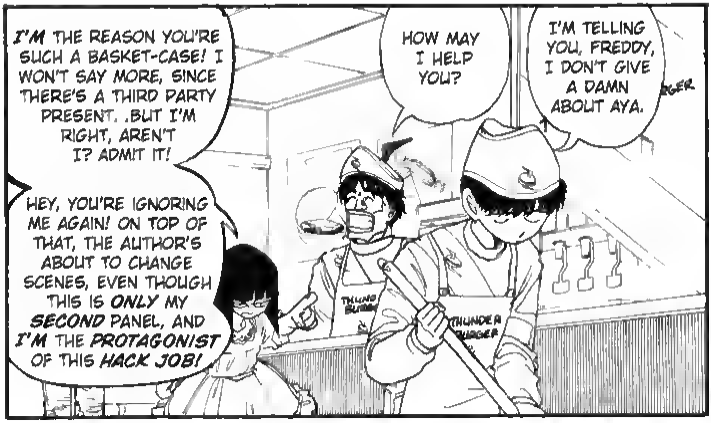

THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER BURGER

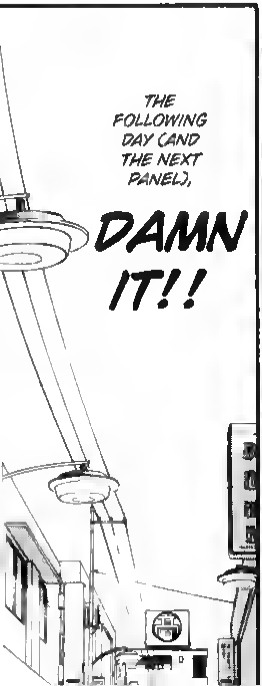

SPLOOSH

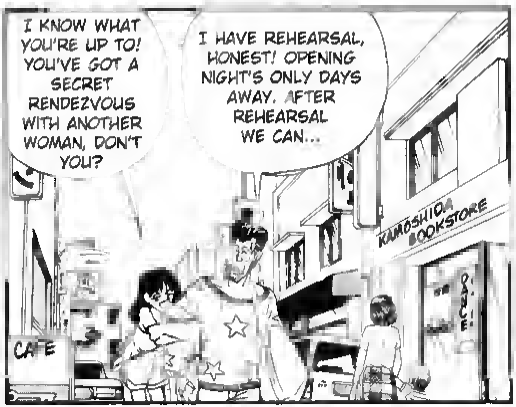
TELL HIM THE TRUTH. WHY DON'T YOU. .?

ARE YOU TRYING TO RUIN ME!?
I-I'M S-SORRY..
THUNDER BURGER

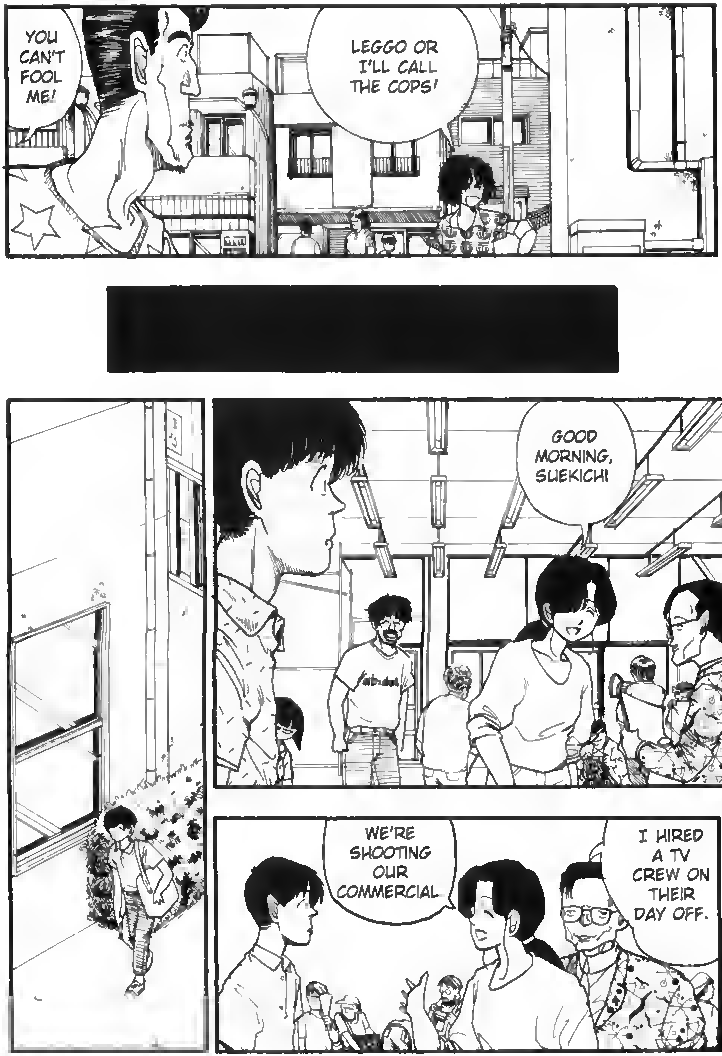
YOU'RE SO OUT OF IT. THAT'S THE THIRD TIME TONIGHT. WHY DON'T YOU JUST MAKE UP WITH AYA?
I'M JUST TIRED AND OVER-WORKED
THUNDER BURGER


I'M THE REASON YOU'RE SUCH A BASKET-CASE! I WON'T SAY MORE, SINCE THERE'S A THIRD PARTY PRESENT. .BUT I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I? ADMIT IT!
HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
I'M TELLING YOU, FREDDY, I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT AYA.
HEY, YOU'RE IGNORING ME AGAIN! ON TOP OF THAT, THE AUTHOR'S ABOUT TO CHANGE SCENES, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS ONLY MY SECOND PANEL, AND I'M THE PROTAGONIST OF THIS HACK JOB!
THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER BURGER

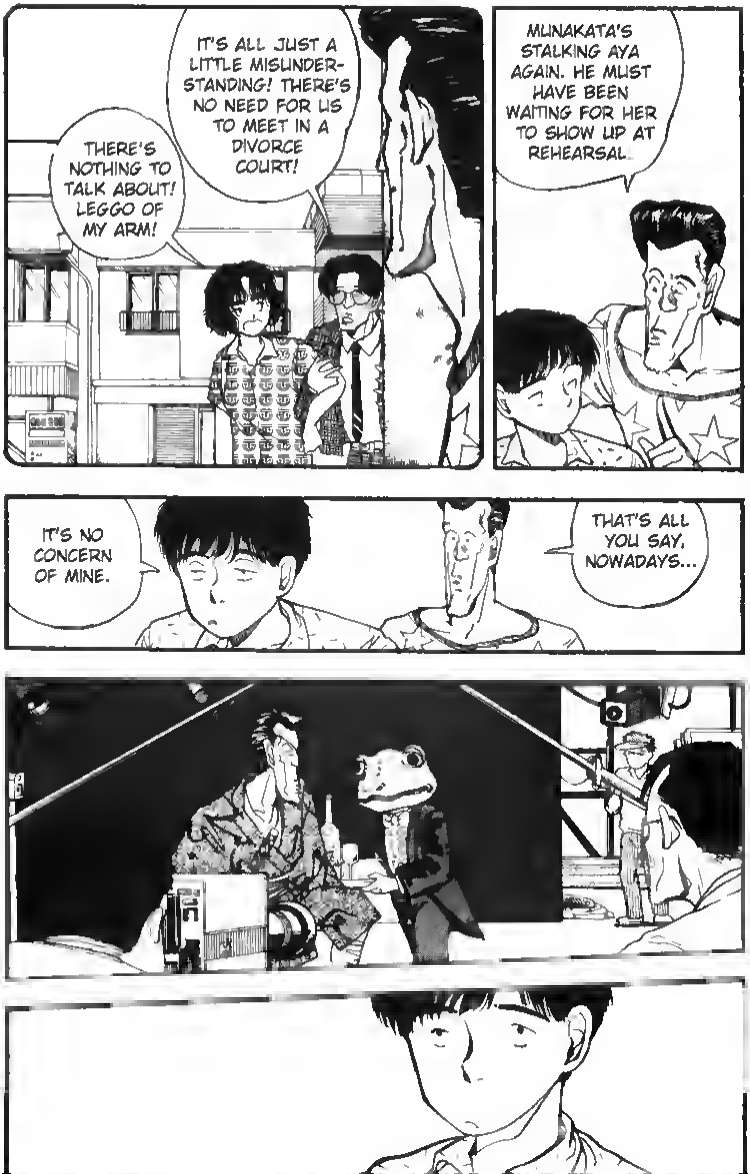

THE FOLLOWING DAY (AND THE NEXT PANEL),
DAMN IT!!


I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO! YOU'VE GOT A SECRET RENDEZVOUS WITH ANOTHER WOMAN, DON'T YOU?
I HAVE REHEARSAL, HONEST! OPENING NIGHT'S ONLY DAYS AWAY. AFTER REHEARSAL WE CAN...
KAMOSHIDA BOOKSTORE
CAFE

REHEARSING YOUR LIES, MORE LIKE!


YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!
LEGGO OR I'LL CALL THE COPS!
GOOD MORNING, SUEKICHI
WE'RE SHOOTING OUR COMMERCIAL
I HIRED A TV CREW ON THEIR DAY OFF.

PLACES, EVERY-ONE!
I SAW THAT LOOK! YOU'RE FEELING LEFT OUT BECAUSE KARASU'S REPLACED YOU AS PRODUCER!
SUE
IKEZU AND AYA AREN'T HERE YET...
SORRY I'M LATE
YOU BETTER LISTEN WHEN SOMEONE'S TALKING TO YOU, OR ELSE--
WE'VE ONLY GOT A FEW DAYS LEFT TILL OPENING NIGHT!
A WORD, PLEASE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT? MONEY? I'M BROKE!
I'M TELLING YOU THIS AS YOUR FRIEND... I JUST SAW...

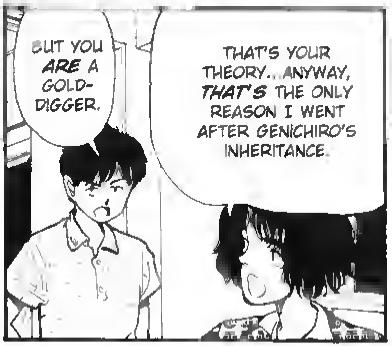

IT'S ALL JUST A LITTLE MISUNDER-STANDING! THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO MEET IN A DIVORCE COURT!
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT! LEGGO OF MY ARM!
MUNAKATA'S STALKING AYA AGAIN. HE MUST HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR HER TO SHOW UP AT REHEARSAL.
IT'S NO CONCERN OF MINE.
THAT'S ALL YOU SAY, NOWADAYS...

WELCOME HOME!
HOW'D YOU GET IN? THROUGH THE WINDOW?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING! WE'RE ON THE 3RD FLOOR! YOU FORGOT TO LOCK THE DOOR
BUT THAT QUESTION SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!

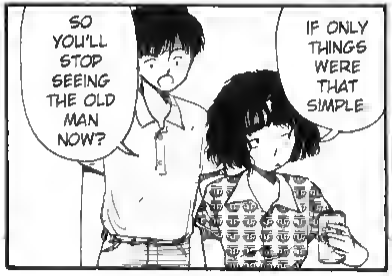
SORRY I MISSED REHEARSAL. I HAD AN UNEXPECTED PERSONAL MATTER TO ATTEND TO.
MUNAKATA CAUGHT YOU.
HUH? HOW'D YOU KNOW?
IKEZU TOLD ME.
MUNAKATA'S BEEN A ROYAL PAIN.
I COULDN'T SHAKE HIM, SO I AGREED TO GO TO A CAFE TO TALK. BUT HE JUST GOES ON AND ON LIKE A BROKEN CD.
WHY'D YOU COME BACK?

WHAT'S YOUR ULTERIOR MOTIVE THIS TIME?
YOU DON'T *WANT* ME BACK?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID..
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? JUST BE HAPPY I'M HOME AGAIN!
I CAN'T DEAL WITH YOU POPPING IN OUT OF MY LIFE LIKE THIS!
YOU MAKE ME SOUND SO FLIGHTY.
WELL? AM I WRONG?
IT'S NOT EASY FOR *ME* EITHER, YOU KNOW!

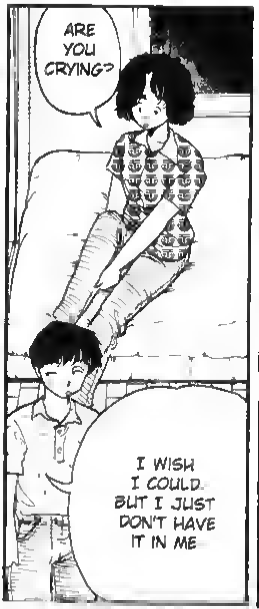
SO SUE'S SNAGGING YOUR GREAT-GRAND-FATHER'S SECRET ESTATE, HUH?
..NOT YET.
THAT MEANS NOW WE CAN BE TOGETHER WITHOUT MR. TACHIMI AND EVERYONE SAYING I'M A GOLD-DIGGER!

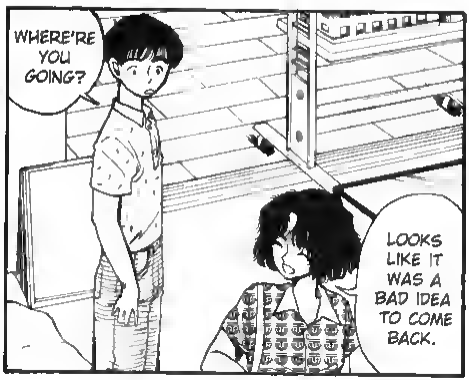

BUT YOU ARE A GOLD-DIGGER.
THAT'S YOUR THEORY.. ANYWAY, THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I WENT AFTER GENICHIRO'S INHERITANCE.

HE MAY BE RICH, BUT HE'S STILL A LONELY OLD MAN
HE GETS DEPRESSED WHEN I'M NOT AROUND
I GUESS I'LL KEEP SEEING HIM YOU KNOW, AS A KIND OF CHARITY WORK


SO YOU'LL STOP SEEING THE OLD MAN NOW?
IF ONLY THINGS WERE THAT SIMPLE

SO NOTHING'S CHANGED.
WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE THINGS AS THEY COME?
IT'S LATE. LET'S GO TO BED.
WHATSA MATTER?
...I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE.
I CAN'T TAKE IT! YOU RUN OFF FOR NO REASON...THEN YOU COME BACK WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT! ONE MINUTE YOU MAKE ME HAPPY, THE NEXT YOU MAKE ME MISERABLE!
I'M TIRED OF NOT BEING ABLE TO TRUST YOU, OF BEING AT THE MERCY OF WHATEVER YOU TELL ME! I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!


ARE YOU CRYING?
I WISH I COULD BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE IT IN ME


WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A BAD IDEA TO COME BACK.

HUH?

DON'T YOU GET IT? I WANT YOU TO BE WITH ME FOR GOOD

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT FOR GOOD...
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT TOMORROW

I LIKE IT WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY... AND WHEN YOU'RE SAD...AND EXCITED ...AND UPSET... AND...
I MEAN...
WHAT...?
OH, FORGET IT. IT'S LATE. LET'S HIT THE HAY.
...
I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS...

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
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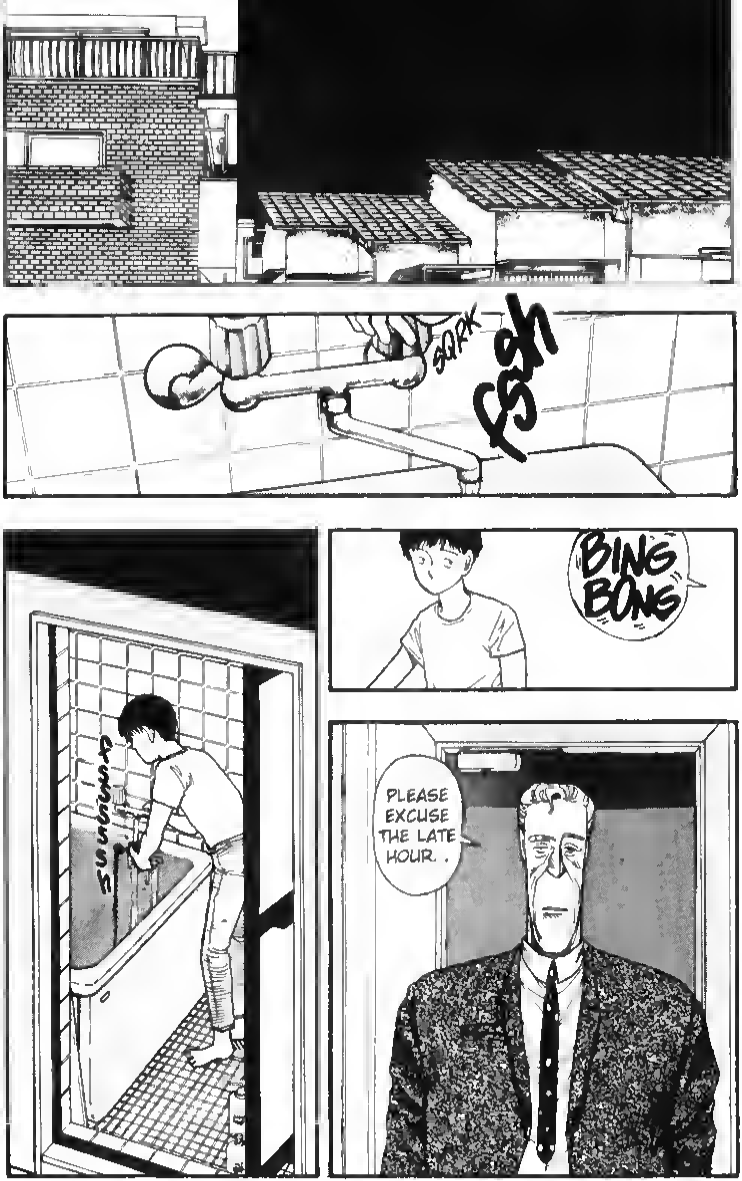
ACT SEVEN

TERROR! SUEKICHI'S CURSE


SPARK
FSSH
BING BONG
PLEASE EXCUSE THE LATE HOUR. .

ACTUALLY, LOSING THE INHERITANCE IS KIND OF A RELIEF.
SHRUGS
I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME AND THE MONEY WAS TEMPTING...BUT I'M SICK OF ALL THE HASSLE.
B-BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN DETERMINED IF SUE IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR YET!
WELL, IF SHE IS, THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK ON *HER* BEHALF.
BUT EVEN IF DAIKICHI CONFUSED THE TWO OF YOU, HE DID SAY ***YOUR NAME***-- "SUEKICHI."

...AYA IS OUT LATE.
MUST BE WORKING OVERTIME AT THE DAYCARE.
I STILL HAVE YOUR INTERESTS IN MIND
FOR ALL WE KNOW, SUE MIGHT PUBLICIZE THE SECRET INHERITANCE! I INSIST YOU RECONSIDER!
DON'T HESITATE TO BE IN TOUCH.
IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL SENTIMENTS, RATHER THAN A LEGAL CONCLUSION...I BELIEVE DAIKICHI'S PRECIOUS STAMP COLLECTION SHOULD FIND A HOME WITH SOMEONE WITHOUT AN AVARICIOUS NATURE.
UH-HUH...
SOME-THING ELSE...?
I WONDER IF TACHIMI'S GAY...
THAT'S A SCARY THOUGHT.

OH!
GOOD-NIGHT, THEN.
HELLO.
I'M HOME!
DINNER?
I ALREADY ATE.
WHERE YA GOING?
TAKING A BATH.

AHHH.

WHAT DID TACHIMI WANT?

YOU KNOW.. THE BATTLE OVER THE INHERITANCE
OH, THAT. I THOUGHT THAT WAS ALL RESOLVED.

DID YOU SEE THE OLD MAN AGAIN?
YEAH.

WHY?
WHY NOT?
I THOUGHT THE POINT OF MARRYING HIM WAS TO PROVE YOU WEREN'T AFTER MY INHERITANCE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO MARRY HIM ANYMORE
WELL, THE THING IS...
...LET'S SAY I MARRY *YOU* AND YOU DON'T GET YOUR INHERITANCE.

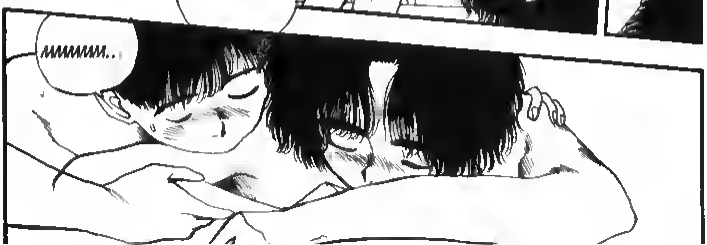
SO YOU BECOME A SALARYMAN THAT'S A ROUGH LIFE.
WE COULDN'T BUY A HOUSE IN THIS AREA EVEN IF YOU WORKED TILL YOU DROPPED DEAD.
SO SECURING GENICHIRO'S INHERITANCE STILL MAKES SENSE.
SO NOTHING'S CHANGED
YOU KEEP SAYING HE'LL DIE SOON - BUT WHAT IF HE ENDS UP LIVING ANOTHER COUPLE OF DECADES?
YOU NEVER KNOW WITH OLD PEOPLE
SO WHAT? I CAN ALWAYS COME HERE HE SAYS I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT.

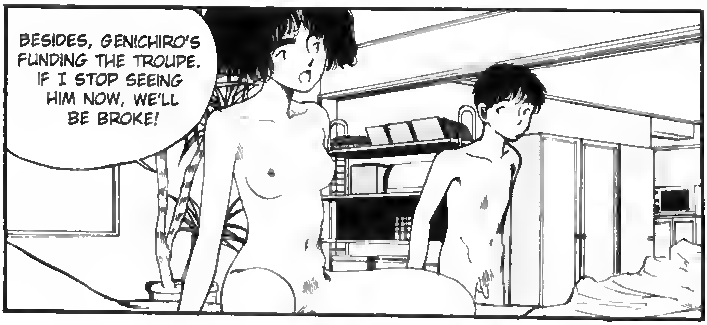
SHLO
OP

I DON'T.. HAVE.. TO HAVE... SEX WITH HIM!

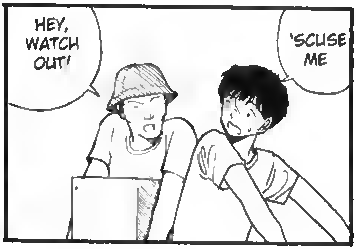
THAT'S.. NOT... THE ISSUE

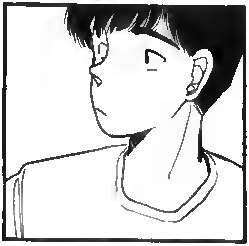
IT ISN'T?
FAP
AHH!

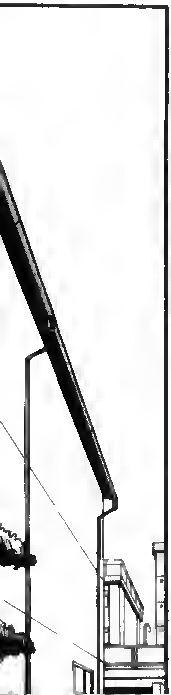

MMMMM..

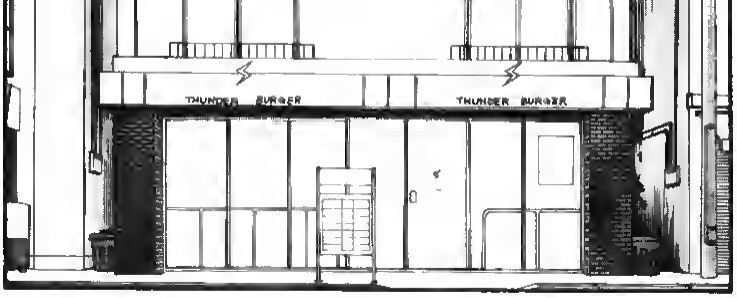

BESIDES, GENICHIRO'S FUNDING THE TROUPE. IF I STOP SEEING HIM NOW, WE'LL BE BROKE!

WHO'S THAT...?
WE'RE SHORT ON ACTORS AND BACKSTAGE CREW, SO KARASU BROUGHT THEM IN.


HEY, WATCH OUT!
'SCUSE ME



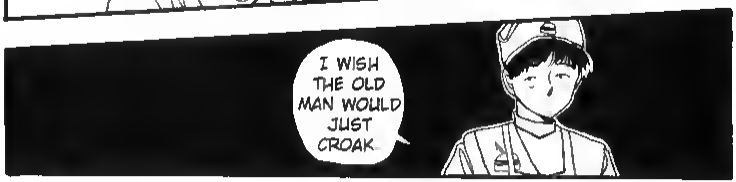



THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER BURGER

SURE, MARRYING GENICHIRO WOULD BE BEST FOR THE TROUPE...BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE IT.
YUM!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? HE CAN'T GET IT UP ANYWAY, RIGHT?
YOU'RE JUST LIKE AYA! YOU THINK EVERYTHING IS ABOUT SEX!

BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO?
BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN, IT'S BASICALLY ABOUT HIS DICK AND HER PUSSY, RIGHT? THAT'S NOT MY OPINION. I LEARNED IT FROM TV AFTER I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY.

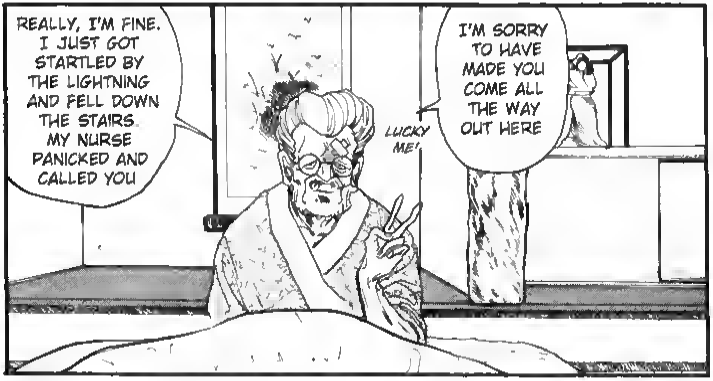

I WISH THE OLD MAN WOULD JUST CROAK

EH?
WHAT IS IT, SIR?
I FEEL A BIT CHILLY. MUST BE THE RAIN SEEPING INTO MY OLD BONES .
YOU BETTER GO TO BED SO YOU DON'T CATCH A COLD.
I WONDER IF I'M REALLY DOING THIS FOR AYA ..
WHAT'S THAT, SIR?
I'M CERTAIN THAT AFTER I PASS ON, AYA WILL LEAD A HAPPY LIFE WITH ANOTHER MAN, LIVING OFF MY INHERITANCE.
WELL, THERE MAY BE SOMEONE ALREADY FOR ALL WE KNOW

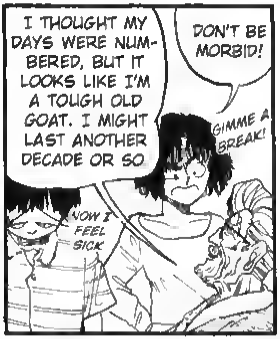
SO THAT MEANS OUR RELATIONSHIP ALL COMES DOWN TO MONEY.
YOU KNEW THAT FROM THE START.
MAYBE THE RAIN'S JUST MAKING ME MELAN-CHOLY...
I BETTER GET TO BED.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT ON YOUR OWN?
BRRRRMMMM
EH?
WHUMP! WHUMP! WHUMP!
I THINK I CAN MAKE IT TO MY BEDROOM BY MYSELF, THANK YOU!
GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT, SIR.
KASH
WB
EH?

HELLO!
I'M HOME!
YOU WANNA DO IT?
NOT NECESS-ARILY.
WE CAN, IF YOU WANT TO
THEN LET'S...
BRRRNG
HELLO.
GENICHIRO DID WHAT!?

FSSSSSHHH
SCREE


REALLY, I'M FINE. I JUST GOT STARTLED BY THE LIGHTNING AND FELL DOWN THE STAIRS. MY NURSE PANICKED AND CALLED YOU
I'M SORRY TO HAVE MADE YOU COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE
LUCKY ME!

YOU ARE NOT FINE! YOU HIT YOUR HEAD! IN THE MORNING WE'RE GETTING YOU A CAT SCAN
YOU SCARED ME!


I THOUGHT MY DAYS WERE NUMBERED, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M A TOUGH OLD GOAT. I MIGHT LAST ANOTHER DECADE OR SO
DON'T BE MORBID!
GIMME A BREAK!
NOW I FEEL SICK

IT'S LATE. WHY DON'T YOU STAY THE NIGHT?

IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO ACCOMPANY AYA, SUEKICHI.
UH. .

SSSHHHH
YOU IDIOT! IF THE OLD MAN DIES BEFORE I MARRY HIM, WE LOSE OUR TICKET FROM RAGS TO RICHES!
...
YOU REALLY HOPE HE DOESN'T MAKE IT, HUH?
...
EH?
EH?
EH?

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT EIGHT
TURNING POINT

SO YOU'RE NOT JUST A NURSE..
THAT'S RIGHT. MY FAMILY HAS SERVED THE ITO! FAMILY SINCE THE EDO PERIOD. OUR FAMILY HISTORIES RUN SIDE BY SIDE

AND YOU'RE THE HOUSEKEEPER, TOO?

THAT'S MY JOB. HIS FAMILY PAID FOR MY SCHOOLING. I LEARNED HOUSEKEEPING FROM MY MOTHER, WHO LEARNED IT FROM MY GRANDMOTHER.
AND ALL THIS TIME YOU'VE NEVER *DONE IT* WITH GENICHIRO?

OF COURSE NOT!
WE COME FROM SUCH DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS. IT MIGHT SEEM OLD-FASHIONED TO YOU, BUT THAT'S HOW I WAS RAISED.

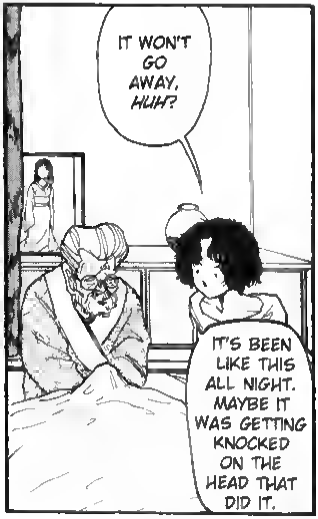
WOULD YOU PLEASE WAKE GENICHIRO?
SURE THING.

MAYBE HE'S A STIFF

TMP
TMP
TMP

GOOD MOR-NING!

WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, NOTHING...
HEY, YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING!
N-NO, YOU MUSTN'T!
YOU CAN SHOW ME!
WHOA
...AND THAT WAS HOW GENICHIRO SAVED THE ITOI FAMILY FROM RUIN.
SO...WHY DO YOU THINK AYA CAUGHT HIS EYE?


IT WON'T GO AWAY, HUH?
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS ALL NIGHT. MAYBE IT WAS GETTING KNOCKED ON THE HEAD THAT DID IT.

GENICHIRO RECOVERED FROM HIS ILLNESS...

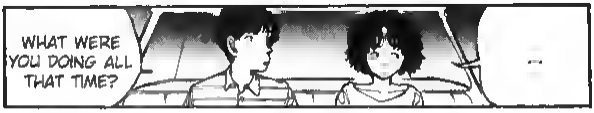
BUT HE WAS LISTLESS AND DESPONDENT. THE DOCTORS ADVISED HIM TO GET OUT AND SOCIALIZE. SO HE BEGAN VISITING AN OLD CLUB HE USED TO FREQUENT.
I WAS CARING FOR HIM WHEN HE MET AYA AT THE CLUB, SO I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP ..

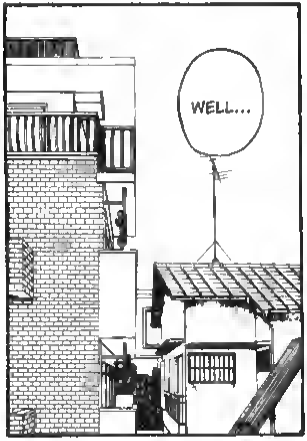
...BUT AS TO WHAT IN PARTICULAR DREW HIM TO HER ..

WHERE IS AYA, BY THE WAY?
I WONDER IF...

WELL, WHAT BETTER WAY FOR A MAN TO GO TO HEAVEN THAN WHILE HE'S COMING!?
B-BUT IF I DIE, YOU WON'T INHERIT...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST *EMPTY IT OUT* THEN?
B-BUT MY HEART CONDITION. IF I EJACULATE NOW..
STILL WON'T GO DOWN?
NO...
SIR, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
WHAT A RELIEF.
WHAT?
I WAS JUST GIVING HIM A KISS GOOD MORNING!

I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I CAUSED.
SEE YOU!


WHAT WERE YOU DOING ALL THAT TIME?
...


WELL...

SO THE OLD MAN GOT IT UP!?
YEP.

I THOUGHT HE WAS IMPOTENT!
WELL, MAYBE IT WAS THAT KNOCK ON THE HEAD.. ANYWAY, HE GOT A STIFFIE!

THEN EVERYTHING'S CHANGED! IF YOU MARRY HIM NOW, THEN. .
HE PROBABLY CAN'T HAVE SEX ANYWAY BECAUSE OF HIS WEAK HEART AND FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE MAY NEVER GET IT UP AGAIN
BESIDES, DIDN'T YOU SAY THIS WASN'T ABOUT SEX? SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF HE'S HARD OR LIMP?
ZOWW
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
TUMPA TUMPA TUMPA

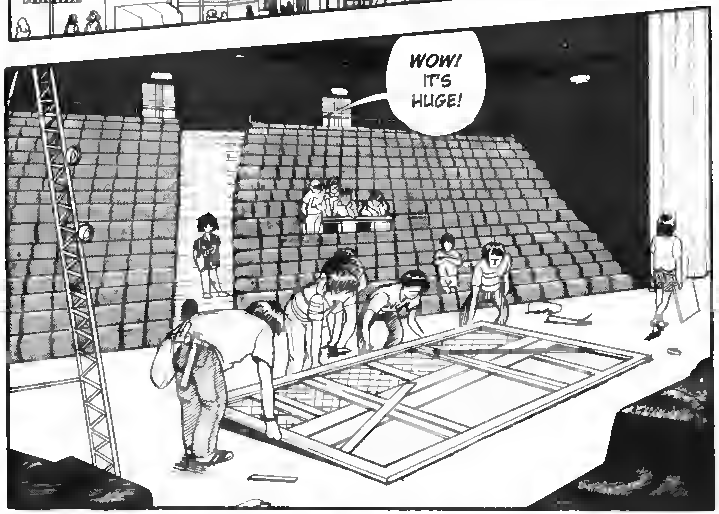
KLAKETTA KLAKETTA
GENICHIRO IS NAPPING AT THE MOMENT.

HE SHOULD BE UP IN LESS THAN AN HOUR...
I NEED TO SPEAK TO HIM *RIGHT NOW.*
TO TELL HIM THAT YOU AREN'T AYA'S BROTHER, BUT IN FACT HER *LOVER?*

Y-YOU KNOW?
IT WASN'T HARD TO FIGURE OUT.
BUT GENICHIRO DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING. HE'S DIFFERENT...
SINCE HE FELL ILL, HE'S A CHANGED MAN--KIND, GENTLE.
ALL THE RUTHLESSNESS FROM HIS DAYS IN THE DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD OF BUSINESS HAS VANISHED AND HE'S GETTING ABSENT-MINDED
NONE OF THE NICE PLACES I TOOK HIM TO APPEALED TO HIM ANYMORE. IT WAS ONLY WHEN HE MET AYA THAT HE TOOK AN INTEREST IN LIFE AGAIN!
HE'S AN OLD MAN. DON'T TELL HIM. DON'T TAKE AWAY HIS ONLY JOY IN LIFE.
B-BUT IF HE ENDS UP LIVING ANOTHER DECADE...
GENICHIRO'S HEALTH IS FAILING RAPIDLY. WHAT HARM IS THERE IN BEING PATIENT AND INHERITING A LITTLE SOMETHING?
OR WOULD YOU PREFER TO MAKE HIM *SUFFER*?

I'LL CALL YOU A TAXI.
NO THANKS. I'LL WALK TO THE STATION
YOU MORTALS LEAD SUCH COMPLICATED LIVES.
LONG TIME NO SEE! IT BEING SUMMER AND ALL, I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY AND SAY "HEY."
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!
AH, THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF LOVE!
BESIDES, SHOULDN'T YOU BE VISITING SUE SINCE SHE'S YOUR HEIR?
DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT. I THOUGHT YOU COULD USE THE COMPANY.

ササキ
BONDAGE
HORSE
THEATER


WOW! IT'S HUGE!

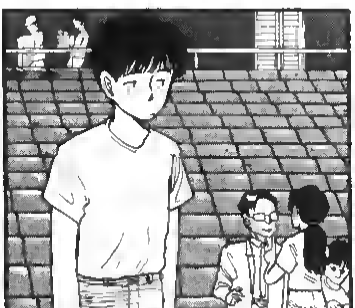
JUST BECAUSE IT SEATS A LOT OF PEOPLE DOESN'T MEAN MORE OF THEM WILL BUY TICKETS. AND BIG ISN'T NECESSARILY BETTER!

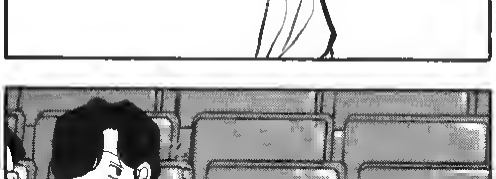
SO THIS IS HOW YOU HANDLE THE PRESSURES OF PERFORMING IN THE BIG LEAGUES, HUH?
YOU DON'T THINK I CAN HANDLE THE HEAT?

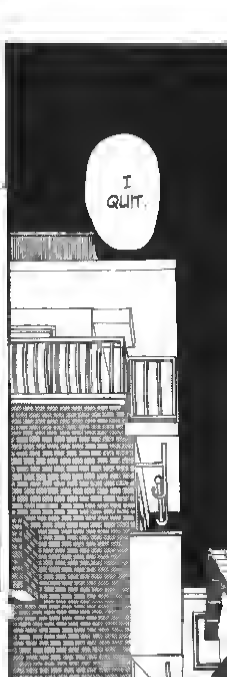
DINGA
DING
DING
BREEEP
BREEEP
BREEEP
GAME BOYA

HM?
YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH IT FROM SHIMOMURA IF YOU DON'T GET TO WORK.
SHE HAS ALL THE HELP SHE NEEDS. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO
WHAT ABOUT YOUR ACTING? SHOULDN'T YOU BE MEMORIZING YOUR LINES?
I KNOW'EM BACK-WARDS AND FOR-WARDS.
HOW ABOUT BUILDING SETS? OR DOING YOUR MAGIC WITH THE BOOKS?
I TOLD YOU KARASU'S TAKEN CARE OF EVERY-THING.
GROW UP! STOP PLAYING THAT KIDS' GAME! FIND SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE TO DO!
YOU REALLY WANT TO PLAY, DON'T YOU?
I-I'M JUST SPEAKING AS A RESPONSIBLE, FELLOW MEMBER OF THE TROUPE!
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU IF YOU GIVE UP THE INHERITANCE
D-DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS TH-THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE INHERI-TANCE IF YOU WANT IT SO BADLY
JUST KIDDING.

UP
THERE
THAT'S
RIGHT

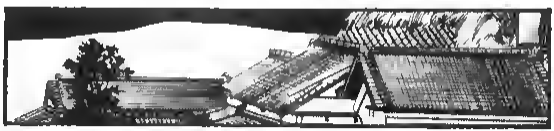





I
QUIT.

QUIT WHAT?

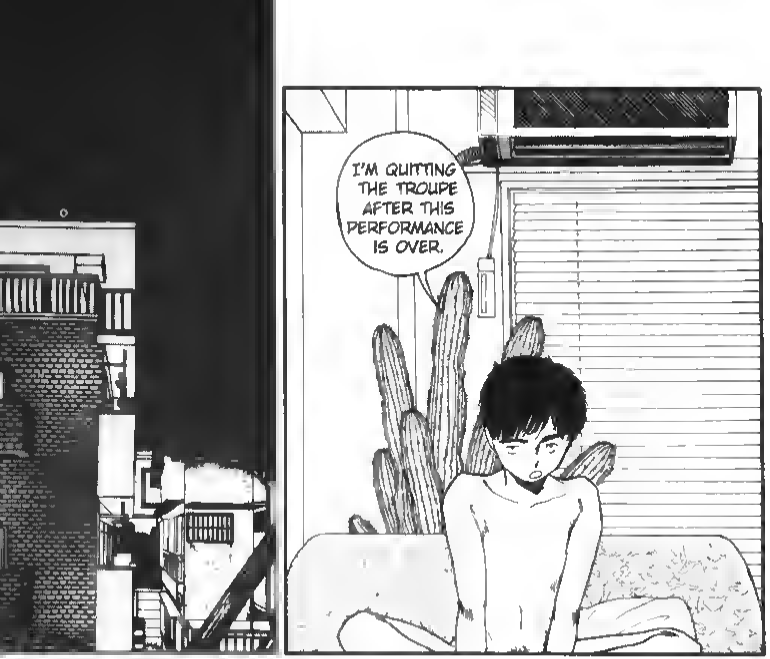
I'VE DECIDED TO QUIT THE TROUPE AFTER THIS PRODUCTION.



EH?

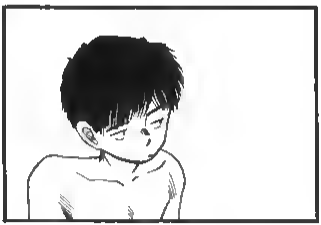
100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT NINE
TROUBLE

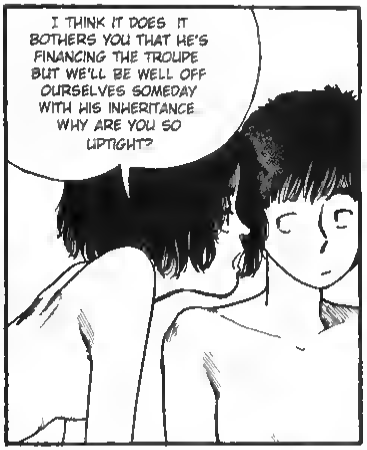

I'M QUITTING THE TROUPE AFTER THIS PERFORMANCE IS OVER.

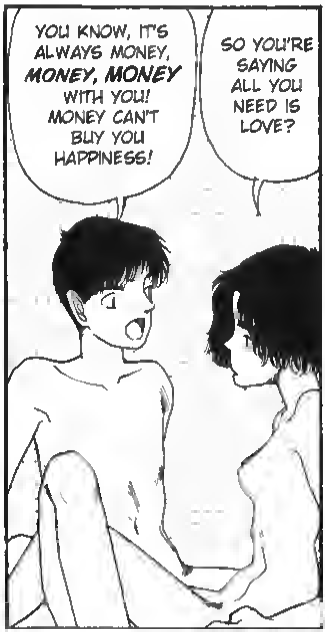
GO AHEAD.
I WILL.
MILK

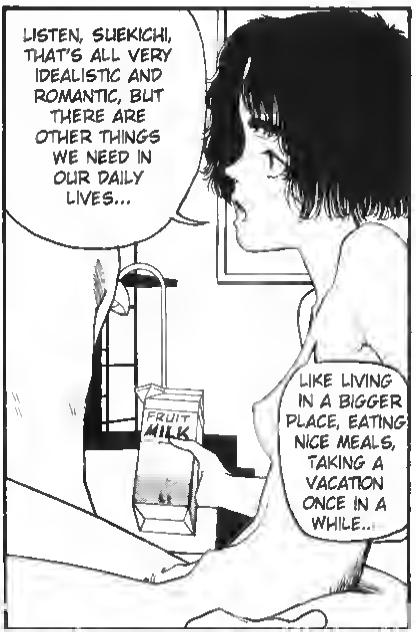
MILK



YOU THINK I WON'T MARRY GENICHIRO IF YOU LEAVE THE TROUPE?
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.
FRUIT MILK

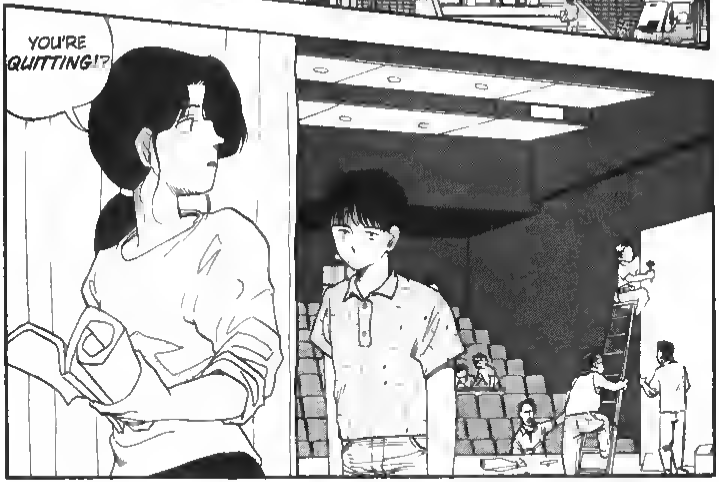

I THINK IT DOES. IT BOTHERS YOU THAT HE'S FINANCING THE TROUPE BUT WE'LL BE WELL OFF OURSELVES SOMEDAY WITH HIS INHERITANCE. WHY ARE YOU SO UPTIGHT?


YOU KNOW, IT'S ALWAYS MONEY, MONEY, MONEY WITH YOU! MONEY CAN'T BUY YOU HAPPINESS!
SO YOU'RE SAYING ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE?


LISTEN, SUEKICHI, THAT'S ALL VERY IDEALISTIC AND ROMANTIC, BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS WE NEED IN OUR DAILY LIVES...
LIKE LIVING IN A BIGGER PLACE, EATING NICE MEALS, TAKING A VACATION ONCE IN A WHILE...
FRUIT MILK

SO YOU'RE HAPPY AS LONG AS YOU'RE RICH?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I SAID.
I LIKE YOU, SUEKICHI. I LOVE YOU. I TOLD YOU, I WANT TO BE WITH YOU AND HAVE A GOOD TIME TOGETHER
IS IT REALLY ALL SO SIMPLE FOR YOU? AS LONG AS YOU HAVE LOVE, YOU CAN LIVE IN A CRAMPED APARTMENT THAT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A BATHTUB?
I DON'T GET YOU.
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO THICK.

ササキ
BONDAGE
HORSE
THEATER


YOU'RE QUITTING!?

...I'M SORRY. I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE I BELONG HERE ANYMORE...
...IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR ME TO STAY IF I'M NOT COMMITTED.

..
WELL, YOU SEEM TO HAVE MADE UP YOUR MIND..

GO AHEAD. QUIT.

YOU JUST CAN'T GET PAST YOUR STUPID NOSTALGIA FOR THE DAYS WE STRUGGLED TO MAKE ENDS MEET!
WHO CARES WHO'S FUNDING US!?

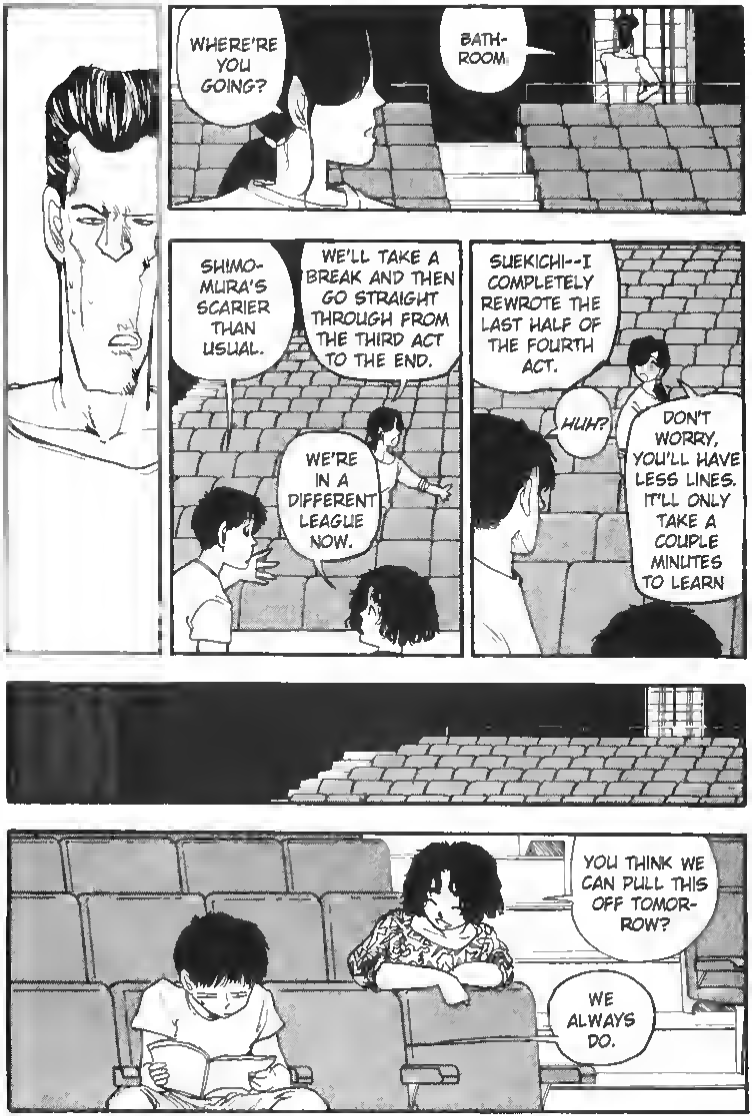
I'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH IT'S A PERSONAL DECISION.
FOR ONCE, WE GET TO PERFORM WITHOUT COUNTING PENNIES!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN YOU'VE GOT IT GOOD!

IS THIS BECAUSE I CALLED IN KARASU AND THE REST?

I TOLD YOU, NO. IT'S JUST PERSONAL.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. BUT PROMISE ME YOU'LL GIVE THIS PERFORMANCE YOUR ALL!
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS
OUTTA MY WAY.
...
WHMP
abia
N-NEVER MIND...
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND JAPANESE VERY WELL.

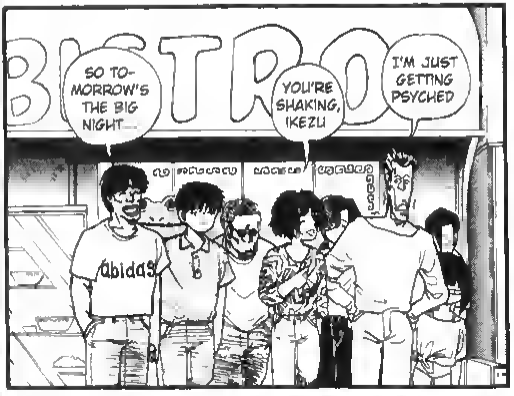
THAT DOES IT!
START OVER!
WHA-AT? AGAIN?
THE DIALOGUE IS DEAD! SHE IS TOTALLY OFF!
TOMORROW'S OPENING NIGHT! WE CAN'T GO ONSTAGE LIKE THIS!
EVERYONE'S EXHAUSTED!
I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED, BUT HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO MAKE IT THROUGH A FIVE-DAY PERFORMANCE?
ALL THE SETS ARE FINISHED FOR ONCE, SO WE CAN FINALLY DEVOTE OUR LAST FEW HOURS TO REHEARSAL!


WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
BATH-ROOM.
SHIMO-MURA'S SCARIER THAN USUAL.
WE'LL TAKE A BREAK AND THEN GO STRAIGHT THROUGH FROM THE THIRD ACT TO THE END.
WE'RE IN A DIFFERENT LEAGUE NOW.
SUEKICHI--I COMPLETELY REWROTE THE LAST HALF OF THE FOURTH ACT.
HUH?
DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL HAVE LESS LINES. IT'LL ONLY TAKE A COUPLE MINUTES TO LEARN
YOU THINK WE CAN PULL THIS OFF TOMOR-ROW?
WE ALWAYS DO.

SHE'S PROBABLY PICKING ON YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE QUITTING.
SHE'S NOT LIKE THAT.
HUH?
YOU'RE LEAVING?
WE CERTAINLY ARE. WE'RE IN JUNIOR HIGH. WE CAN'T STAY OUT ALL NIGHT.
SO WHAT IF WE'RE FRANTICALLY REHEARSING FOR TOMORROW'S PREMIERE? WE WOULDN'T WANT TO..
...INCONVENIENCE ANY MINOR CHILDREN, WOULD WE?
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU'RE STAYING AFTER ALL? I'M SO TOUCHED.
W-WE JUST HAVE TO CALL OUR PARENTS!
ANYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF ART!

AK
FW
NO! THAT'S NO GOOD!!
THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THIS, NO MATTER HOW TIRED YOU ARE!!
HEY, WE'RE RUNNING ON EMPTY! WE'RE GIVING IT EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!
THAT'S EASY TO SAY. WHY DON'T YOU SHOW IT!
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN
ONLY WORSE
AT LEAST WE GET A BREAK
BESIDES, THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! IF YOU FINISHED YOUR SCRIPTS ON TIME, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO REHEARSE UP TO THE LAST MINUTE!
DON'T BLAME ME FOR YOUR BAD MEMORY! YOU NEVER REMEMBER YOUR LINES!
IT'S GETTING PERSONAL
IF THEY KEEP THIS UP, WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL THE PLAY. WHAT A RELIEF THAT WOULD BE!

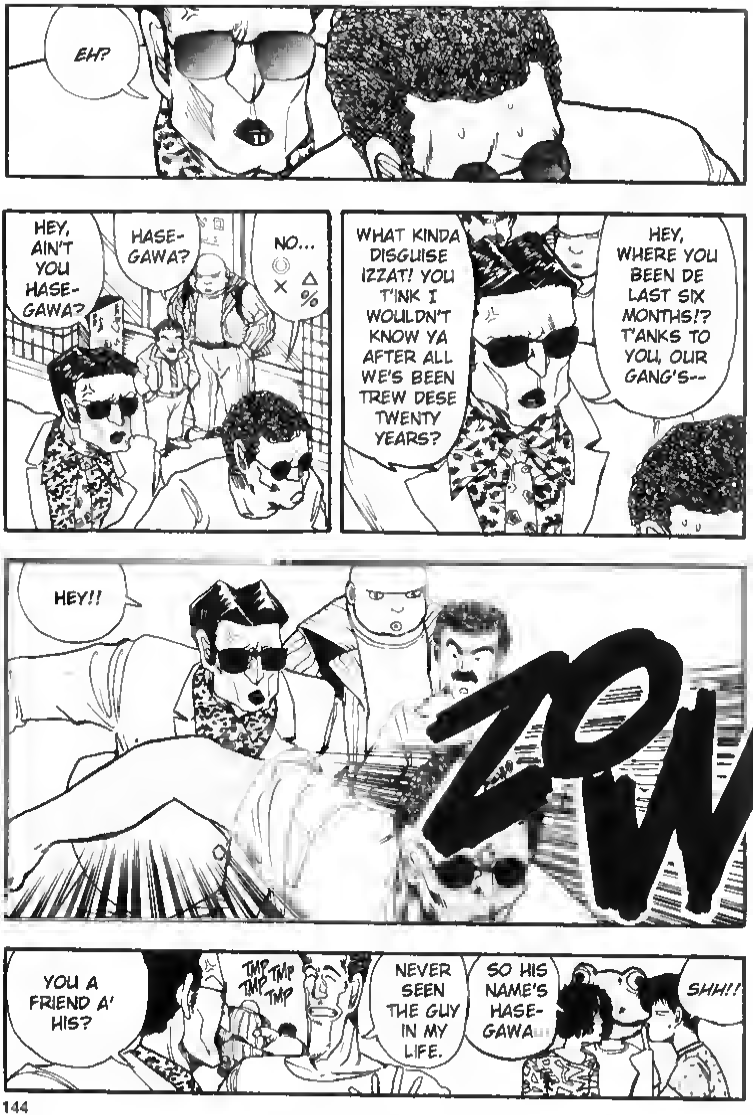
THIS IS BULL-SHIT!
YEAH!? WELL GO HOME THEN! GO ON, GET OUT OF HERE!
STOP IT, YOU TWO.
THIS MAY BE STRESSFUL, BUT IT ISN'T A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH.
SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF GETTING SO WORKED UP? LET'S HAVE FUN.
THREE HOURS LATER.
ALL RIGHT, ONE MORE TIME!!
THANKS FOR BUTTING IN LIKE THAT...
...

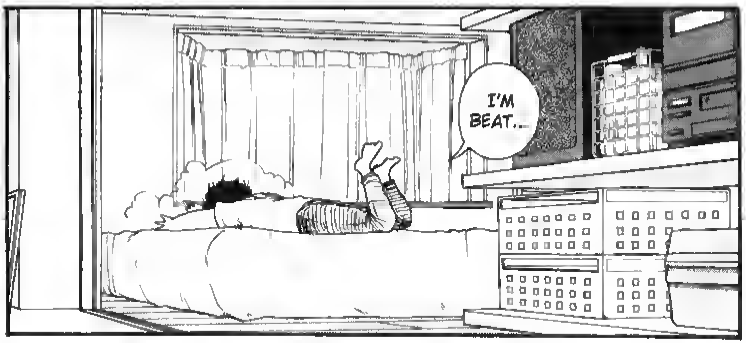

BISTRO
SO TO-MORROW'S THE BIG NIGHT...
YOU'RE SHAKING, IKEZU
I'M JUST GETTING PSYCHED
Abidas

DON'T YOU CHICKEN OUT AT THE LAST MOMENT!
WHADDYA MEAN BY THAT?

YOU'RE IN MY WAY, ASSHOLE!!
...
WHAM

ARE YA DEAF? HOW'S ABOUT AN APOLOGY?
...
BOW


EH?
HEY, AIN'T YOU HASE-GAWA?
HASE-GAWA?
NO...
◎ △
× %
WHAT KINDA DISGUISE IZZAT! YOU T'INK I WOULDN'T KNOW YA AFTER ALL WE'S BEEN TREW DESE TWENTY YEARS?
HEY, WHERE YOU BEEN DE LAST SIX MONTHS!? T'ANKS TO YOU, OUR GANG'S--
HEY!!
ZOW
YOU A FRIEND A' HIS?
TMP TMP TMP TMP
NEVER SEEN THE GUY IN MY LIFE.
SO HIS NAME'S HASE-GAWA!!
SHH!!


I'M BEAT...

AREN'T YOU GONNA EAT?
NOT HUN-GRY.
YOU'RE AMAZ-ING...

NOW THAT I'VE EATEN, IT'S TIME TO SATISFY MY OTHER APPETITES...
YOU REALLY ARE AMAZ-ING...

JUST KIDDING.
BING BONG
THEN WHY ARE YOU STRIPPING ME?

GOOD EVENING.
DID YOU GET AWAY SAFELY?
SORT OF...
YOU'RE BLEEDING!
A LITTLE

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

TEN
STAGE FRIGHT

IN HERE?
Satsuki

FEELS GOOD TO BE MYSELF AGAIN.

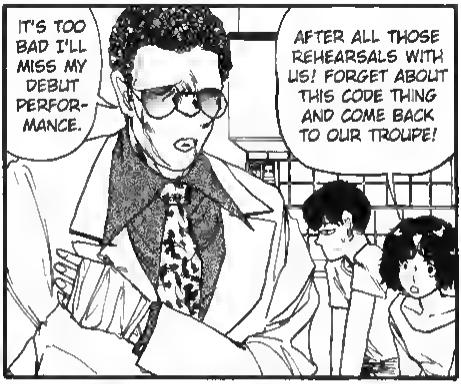
WHAT ABOUT YOUR WOUND?
JUST A SCRATCH. THAT'S HOW IT GOES THEY COME AFTER YOU. THEY TAKE A STAB AT YOU. LITERALLY. YOU LUNGE BACK AT THEM. THEY--
SO YOU'RE GONNA OFF HIM?
NAH. BUT I GOTTA LIVE BY THE CODE.
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE CODE THAT I TOOK THE PIECE, RAN OFF, AND WENT UNDERGROUND. ALL BECAUSE I HONOR THE CODE.
SQUIRT
THE CODE OF THE DISPOSS-ESSED.
AND THAT CODE IS TELLING ME TO GO SETTLE THINGS WITH A SHOOT-OUT...
SQUISH
I KNEW THEY'D TRACK ME DOWN EVENTUALLY. AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE SHOWDOWN...

THIS IS ALL TOO ABSTRACT FOR ME!
THAT'S FOR THE BEST.
OH, WELL...
YOU WOULDN'T BE PRETENDING YOU CAN'T FIND IT WOULD YOU? BECAUSE...
I TOLD YOU TO HIDE IT IN A SAFE PLACE, RIGHT?
YES, YES! SO I HID IT REALLY WELL.. OVER HERE .. SOME-WHERE
OH, HERE IT IS! WHAT A SURPRISE!
HAVEN'T FOUND MY PIECE YET?
I-I'M STILL LOOKING...

IT DOESN'T LOOK RUSTY.
B-BUT IT MIGHT HAVE MISFIRED... ONCE...
I DIDN'T SHOOT IT! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
MAYBE I SHOULD TEST IT NOW...

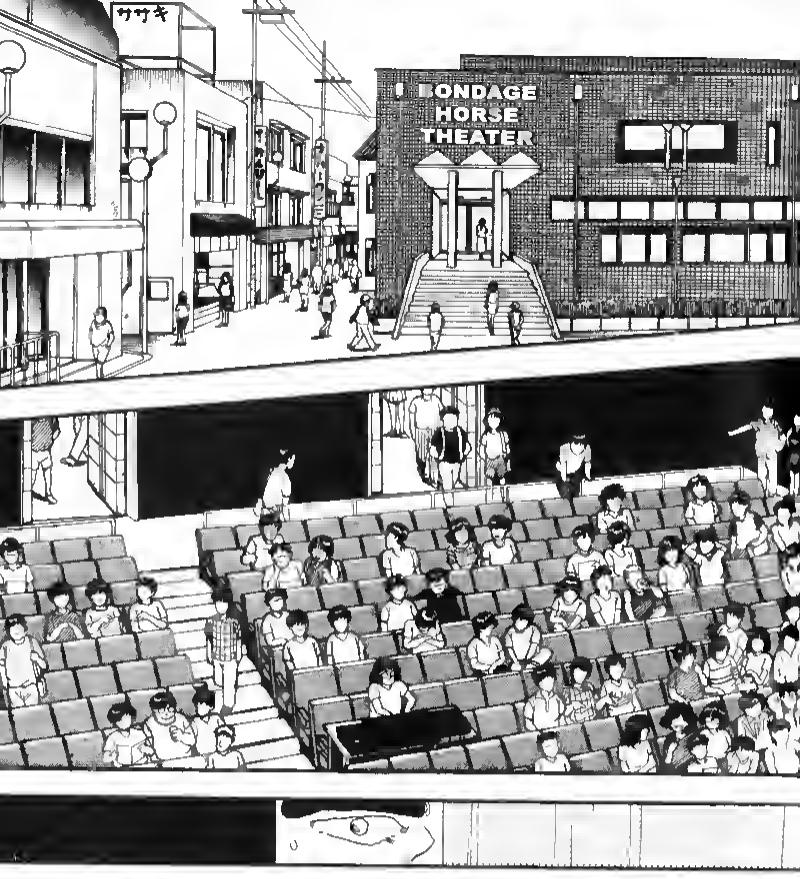
DON'T POINT THAT AT US!
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE LET'S SEE HAVE SEX WHILE I WATCH!
THAT'S NOT FUNNY. YOU'RE NOT LIKE THAT!!
I DON'T CARE.
OH, BUT I AM
MR. HASEGAWA..
WHY DON'T WE JUST GET IT OVER WITH?
REMEMBER, I'M A YAKUZA.
BAAM!
JUST KIDDING JOKING UNDER PRESSURE-- THAT'S ONE OF MY CHARMS
WATCH OUT!

SO YOU WON'T BE COMING BACK...
YOU PEED YOUR PANTS!


IT'S TOO BAD I'LL MISS MY DEBUT PERFORMANCE.
AFTER ALL THOSE REHEARSALS WITH US! FORGET ABOUT THIS CODE THING AND COME BACK TO OUR TROUPE!

THE ONLY PLACE FOR A YAKUZA IS THE CITY OF THE NIGHT.

WOW.

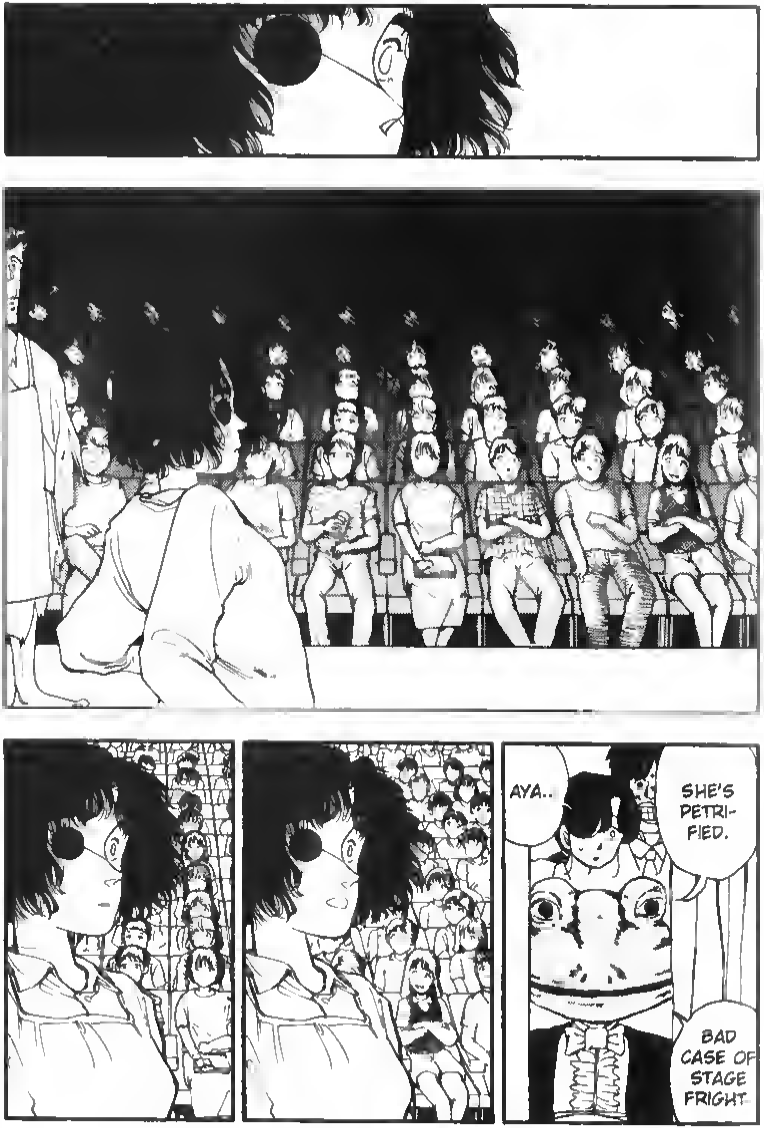

BONDAGE
HORSE
THEATER

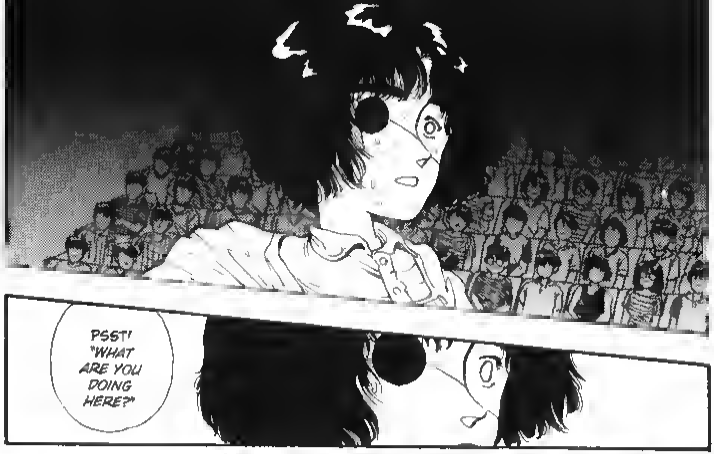
IS THE HOUSE FILLING UP?
LOOKS LIKE IT.

ISN'T THAT THE DIRECTOR OF XX TV?
MAYBE KARASUI PUT HIM ON THE COMP LIST.
EEK! NOW I'M ALL NERVOUS!
GROW UP!
HOUSE LIGHTS GOING DOWN!
BADUMP BADUMP BADUMP
I CAN'T HELP IT.
...WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO. THE HORSE DOESN'T HAVE TOO MANY LINES ANYWAY.
IT'S MY FAULT. I SHOULD'VE STOPPED HIM.
THIS IS YOUR LAST SHOW, SO GIVE IT YOUR ALL!
MR MR MR MR MR

PHEW!

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I'M SO NERVOUS, I'VE FORGOTTEN ALL MY LINES!
CHECK THIS OUT. MY HEART'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE!
OH!
GROPE! GROPE!
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. DEAL WITH IT.
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER! YOU'RE ON NOW!
B-B-B-BUT...
NO B-BUTS. GO!
SHOW


AYA..
SHE'S PETRIFIED.
BAD CASE OF STAGE FRIGHT.


PSST! "WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?"

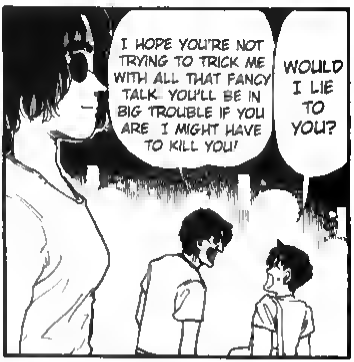
"WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?"

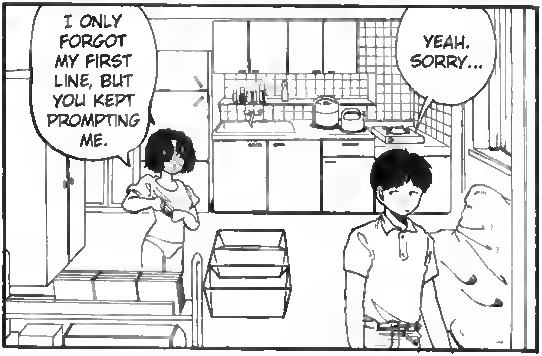
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
SHUT UP! WE WERE DISCUSSING HISTORY!
"I AM THE MYSTERIOUS TOWNSWOMAN."

I AM THE MYSTERIOUS TOWNSWOMAN.
WHO ASKED YOU?
HA HA HA HA HA!
"TODAY'S MONDAY. INFLAMMABLE GARBAGE IS TOMORROW, I SAY."
TODAY'S MONDAY. INFLAMMABLE GARBAGE IS TOMORROW, I SAY

THE HALL WAS PACKED!
I'M SO TIRED
FOUR MORE DAYS... FOUR MORE DAYS
YOU CAN TAKE OFF THE PATCH NOW.
I'M BUILDING MY CHARACTER

...SO WE STILL WON'T MAKE ANY MONEY, NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE SHOW UP?
WELL, WE WON'T KNOW FOR SURE UNTIL WE ADD UP THE RECEIPTS AND DEBIT ALL OUR EXPENSES...

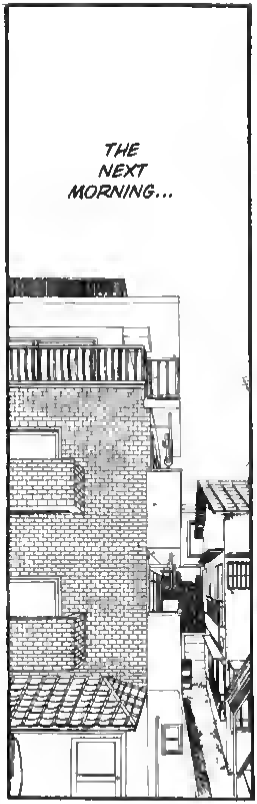

I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO TRICK ME WITH ALL THAT FANCY TALK. YOU'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF YOU ARE. I MIGHT HAVE TO KILL YOU!
WOULD I LIE TO YOU?

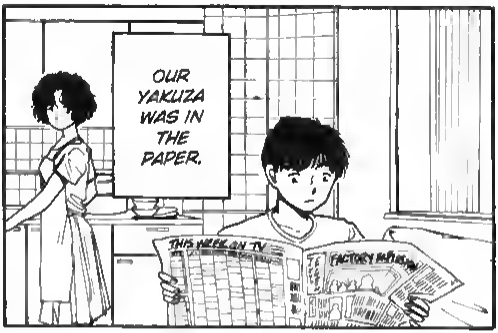

I ONLY FORGOT MY FIRST LINE, BUT YOU KEPT PROMPTING ME.
YEAH. SORRY...

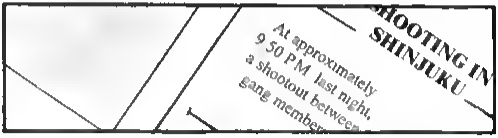
HEY, YOU WANT SOME A' THIS, BIG FELLA?

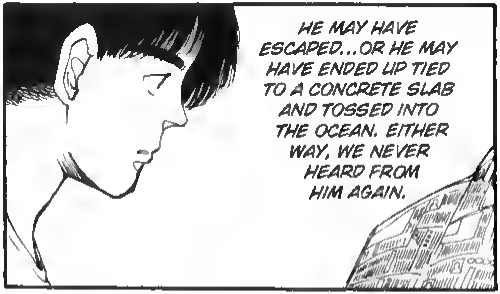
THANKS. THAT WAS REALLY SWEET OF YOU.
YOU'RE WEL-COME.

...ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT OUR YAKUZA?
...


THE NEXT MORNING...


OUR YAKUZA WAS IN THE PAPER.
THIS WEEK ON TV
FACTORY WORKER


SHOOTING IN SHINJUKU
At approximately 9:50 PM last night, a shootout between gang members

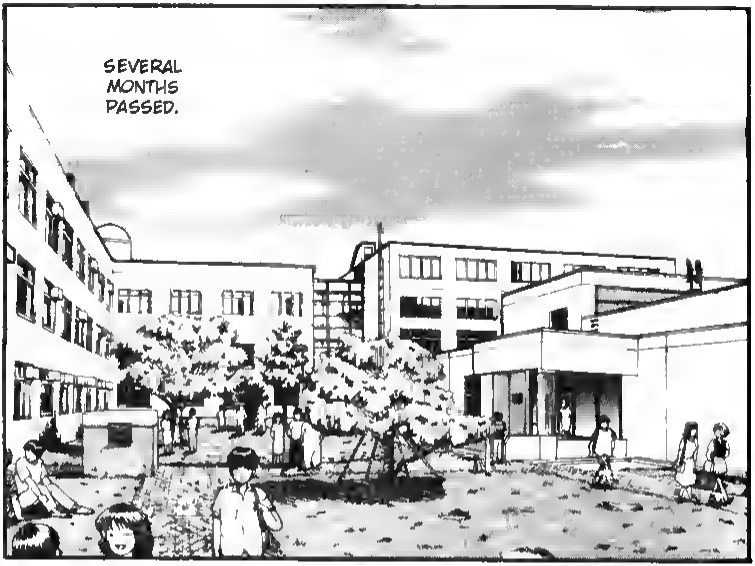

HE MAY HAVE ESCAPED...OR HE MAY HAVE ENDED UP TIED TO A CONCRETE SLAB AND TOSSED INTO THE OCEAN. EITHER WAY, WE NEVER HEARD FROM HIM AGAIN.

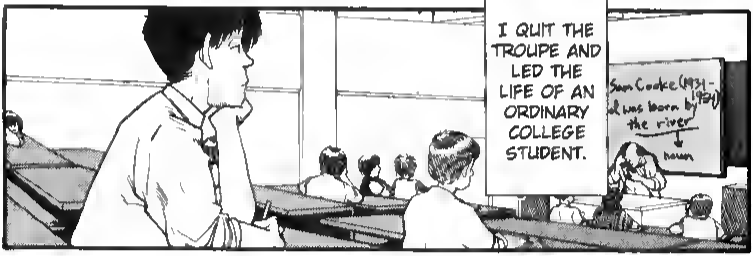
AND COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

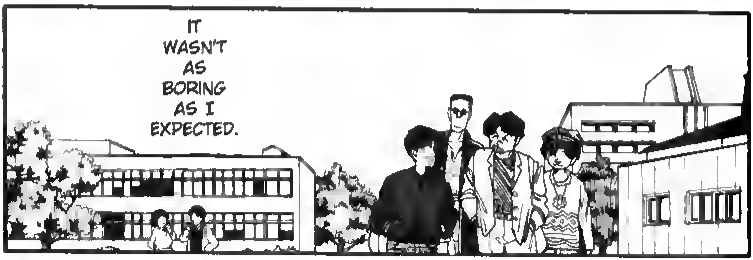
100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT ELEVEN

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME


SEVERAL MONTHS PASSED.


I QUIT THE TROUPE AND LED THE LIFE OF AN ORDINARY COLLEGE STUDENT.
Sam Cooke (1931-
1964)
the river
town


IT WASN'T AS BORING AS I EXPECTED.

WE JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CUSTOMERS..
OTHER THINGS CHANGED TOO. THE BURGER JOINT WENT OUT OF BUSINESS.
THUNDER BURGER

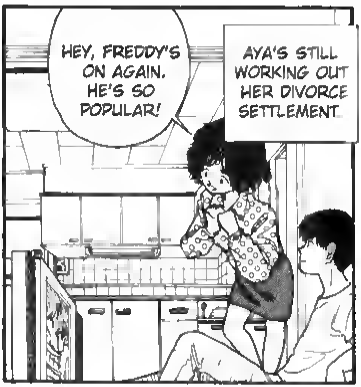
ALSO...

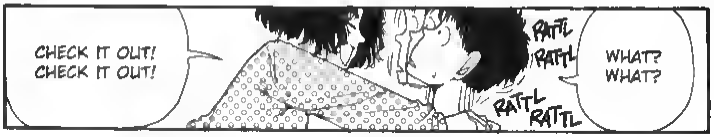
IT TURNED INTO A VIDEO RENTAL PLACE. I DIDN'T SEE MY EX-BOSS INSIDE WHEN I PASSED IT ON THE WAY HOME.
VIDEO SHOP OCALI
ALL ¥300

...FREDDY CAUGHT THE EYE OF A TV PRODUCER WHO SAW OUR SHOW. HE TURNED FREDDY INTO A COMEDY SENSATION OVERNIGHT.
THE PRODUCER SAYS FREDDY'S "GOT WHAT IT TAKES."

NOW HE'S A STAR. SO HE'S FULFILLED HIS JAPANESE DREAM. IT'S A MIRACLE.
BING BONG

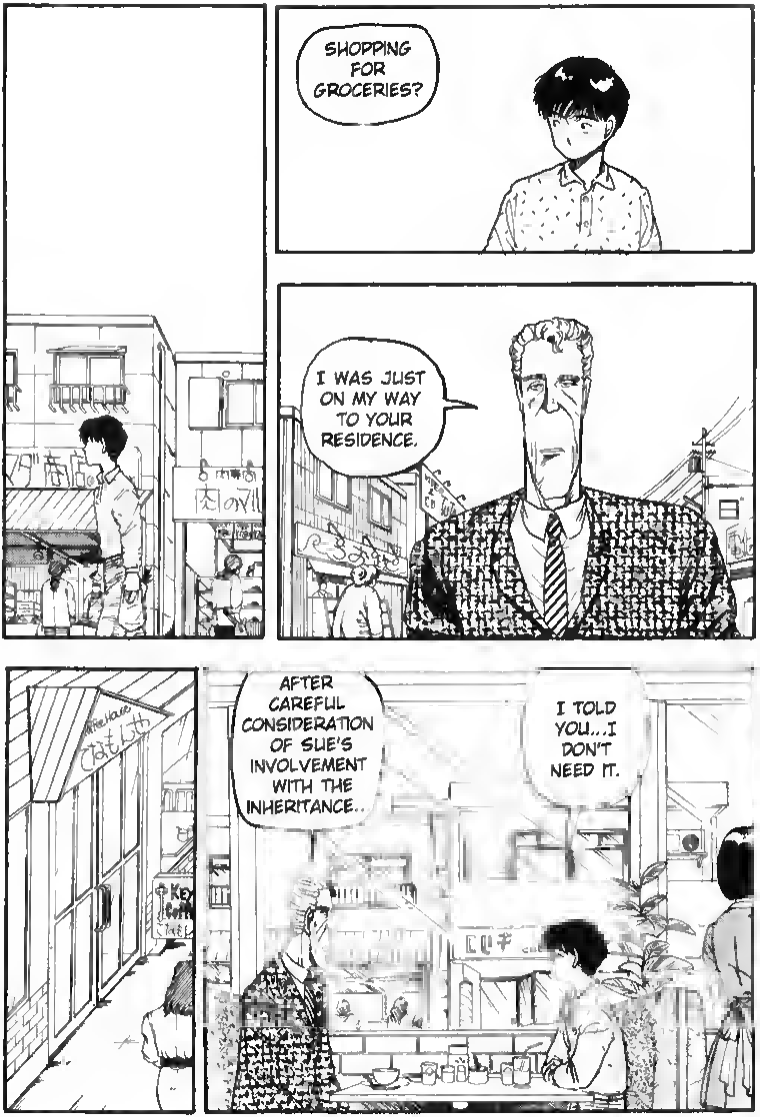
I'M HO-OME!

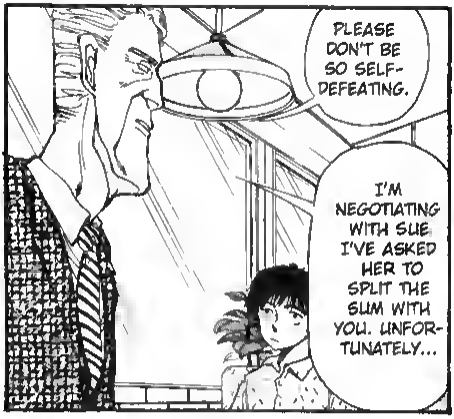

HEY, FREDDY'S ON AGAIN. HE'S SO POPULAR!
AYA'S STILL WORKING OUT HER DIVORCE SETTLEMENT.


CHECK IT OUT! CHECK IT OUT!
RATTL RATTL
RATTL RATTL
WHAT? WHAT?

MY DIVORCE CAME THROUGH!

IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST.
I'LL FIND A BETTER MATCH FOR YOU.
AREN'T YOU GLAD?
'COURSE I AM.
IT'S JUST THAT... EVERYTHING AROUND ME KEEPS CHANGING. I'M HAVING A HARD TIME KEEPING UP.
YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD FUDDY-DUDDY.


SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES?
I WAS JUST ON MY WAY TO YOUR RESIDENCE.
AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF SUE'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE INHERITANCE..
I TOLD YOU...I DON'T NEED IT.


PLEASE DON'T BE SO SELF-DEFEATING.
I'M NEGOTIATING WITH SUE. I'VE ASKED HER TO SPLIT THE SUM WITH YOU. UNFORTUNATELY...

IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME ALL OF IT, I'LL LEAK THE STORY TO THE PRESS!
I CAN'T WAIT! THE TABLOIDS AND THE TAX REVENUE SERVICE WILL BE ALL OVER YOU!

SHE'S JUST PROVOKING ME. AFTER ALL, HER FAMILY IS WELL-OFF ..
I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME, BUT I REALLY DON'T NEED THE MONEY!

WE'RE TRYING TO MOVE ON WITHOUT THAT BAGGAGE.
I HAVE TO GO. AYA'S WAITING. HERE'S MY SHARE OF THE BILL.

SMELLS LIKE SOMEONE'S COOKING FISH...
I'M BA-ACK.
DID YOU REMEMBER THE DAIKON?
DIG IN!

SO MAYBE THIS IS HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.
I NEVER EXPECTED THINGS TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS...
IT'S BEEN ALMOST TWO YEARS SINCE WE FIRST MET...
WHATSA MATTER? IS THE FISH NOT COOKED ENOUGH?
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
GOT THE RUNS?
THEN WHAT IS IT? SUEKICHI, YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO COMMUNICATE!
.. ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY GEN-ICHIRO?

FORGET ABOUT HIM.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT. I TOLD YOU.
WHY CAN'T YOU ACT NORMAL, FOR ONCE?
BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE A NORMAL JOB WE'LL NEVER OWN OUR OWN HOME!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH A NORMAL LIFE?

EVEN AN AVERAGE SALARYMAN CAN MAKE A DECENT LIVING IF HE WORKS HARD. WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING STUCK IN THIS CRAMPED APARTMENT WITHOUT A BATH FOREVER.
BESIDES, YOUR FAMILY OWNS LAND. IT WOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO BUILD A HOUSE ON IT. IT'S NOT RIGHT TO RELY ON THE INHERITANCE OF SOME DISTANT RELATIVE OR STRANGER!

BRRRRING
BRRRR

GENICHIRO!?
ARE YOU GOING TO GO SEE HIM?
IT'S AN EMERGENCY. HE COLLAPSED. HIS HEART..
DON'T GO.

I JUST TOLD YOU. FORGET ABOUT HIM
HE'S HALF OUT OF HIS MIND! HE SAYS HE HAS TO SEE ME!
IF YOU GO NOW... IT'S OVER.
IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING. I'M JUST VISITING A SICK FRIEND.
FINE, THEN
I WON'T GO.

TAK KLAK
glance
I'M DONE.
SLAM!

AYA NEVER CAME BACK.

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
HTTP://WWW.MANGA-SKETCHBOOK.ORG

ACT TWELVE

SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME

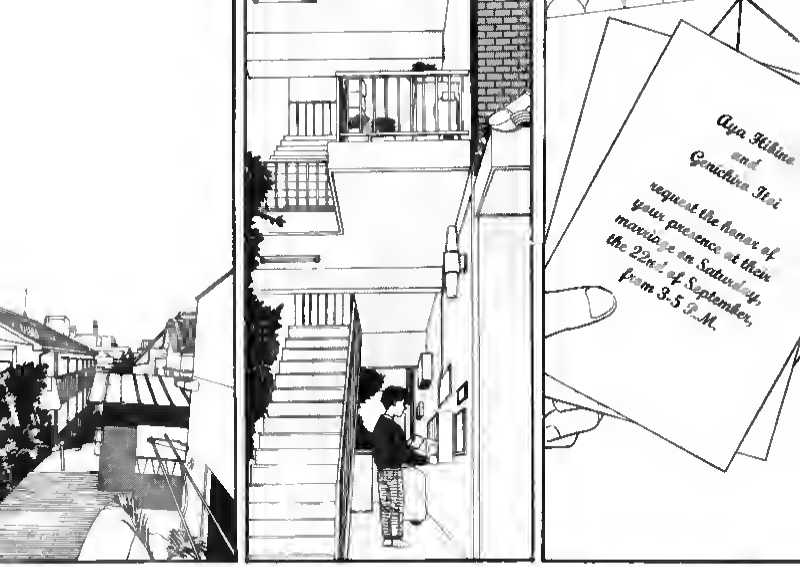
SLISCHH
BING BONG
YOU THOUGHT I WAS AYA, HUH?

FREDDY! YOU'RE SUCH A STAR! I SAW YOU ON TV AGAIN JUST NOW!
HAVE YOU HAD LUNCH? WANNA JOIN ME?
I JUST ATE WITH MY PRODUCER IN AZABU.
abidas
OH. THAT'S NICE
SO AYA HASN'T COME BACK?
I DON'T CARE
SHE'S PROBABLY WITH GEN-ICHIRO.
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
I ENVY YOU. YOU'RE RICH AND FAMOUS AND...
ABOUT THAT...
I'VE DECIDED TO GO HOME.

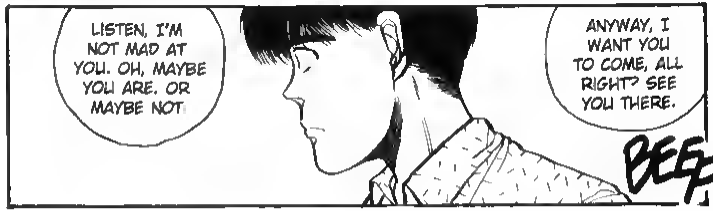
ELSE-
WHERE...
"A COUP D'ETAT"..?
THE MILITARY'S STIRRING UP TROUBLE IN MY COUNTRY. TELE-COMMUNICATIONS ARE DOWN.
I MADE 5 MILLION YEN IN FIVE MONTHS. I'LL BE WELL OFF FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. FAME NO LAST SO NOW BEST TIME ME QUIT.
BROKEN JAPANESE AGAIN?
PEOPLE BACK HOME THINK YOU'RE A SNOB IF YOU SPEAK TOO FLUENTLY.

A COUP D'ETAT IS SERIOUS. YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT?
IT MY HOME. I WORRY ABOUT MY FAMILY.
abidaS
IT NOT LIKE ME GO BACK TO FIGHT. BUT I MUST TO DO SOMETHING. WHATEVER THAT BE.
TAKE CARE AYA FOR ME.
I HEAR SHE REALLY GOING TO MARRY GENICHIRO. IF SHE DO, SHE NEVER COME BACK.
abidaS
TOKYO
GOOD-BYE ..

PUSSY!!
25
I COULDN'T SMILE. I WAS SO SAD I COULDN'T SMILE
I'D NEVER FELT SO SAD IN ALL MY LIFE.
TOKYO

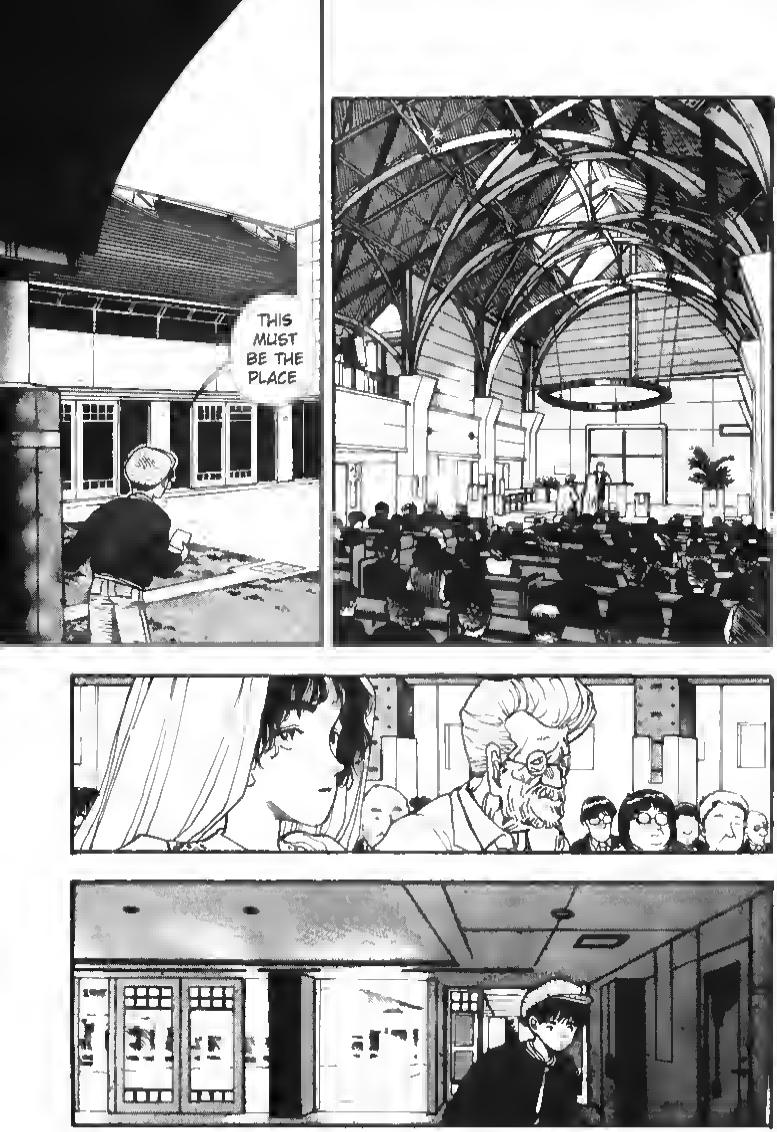

Aya Kihira
and
Genichiro Itoi
request the honor of
your presence at their
marriage on Saturday,
the 22nd of September,
from 3-5 P.M.

BRRRIING BRRING BRRING
HELLO, THIS IS SUEKICHI. PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP.
BEEEP
HEY, IT'S ME! I'VE BEEN CALLING AND CALLING. DID YOU GET THE INVITATION?


LISTEN, I'M NOT MAD AT YOU. OH, MAYBE YOU ARE. OR MAYBE NOT.
ANYWAY, I WANT YOU TO COME, ALL RIGHT? SEE YOU THERE.
BEEP

REALLY? FREDDY WENT BACK?
SO SUEKICHI DIDN'T COME HUH?
AYA IS SO FLAMBOYANT
YOU LOOK LIKE A DREAM, AYA.
YOU'RE STILL WEARING YOUR NURSING OUTFIT.
THIS IS MY UNIFORM

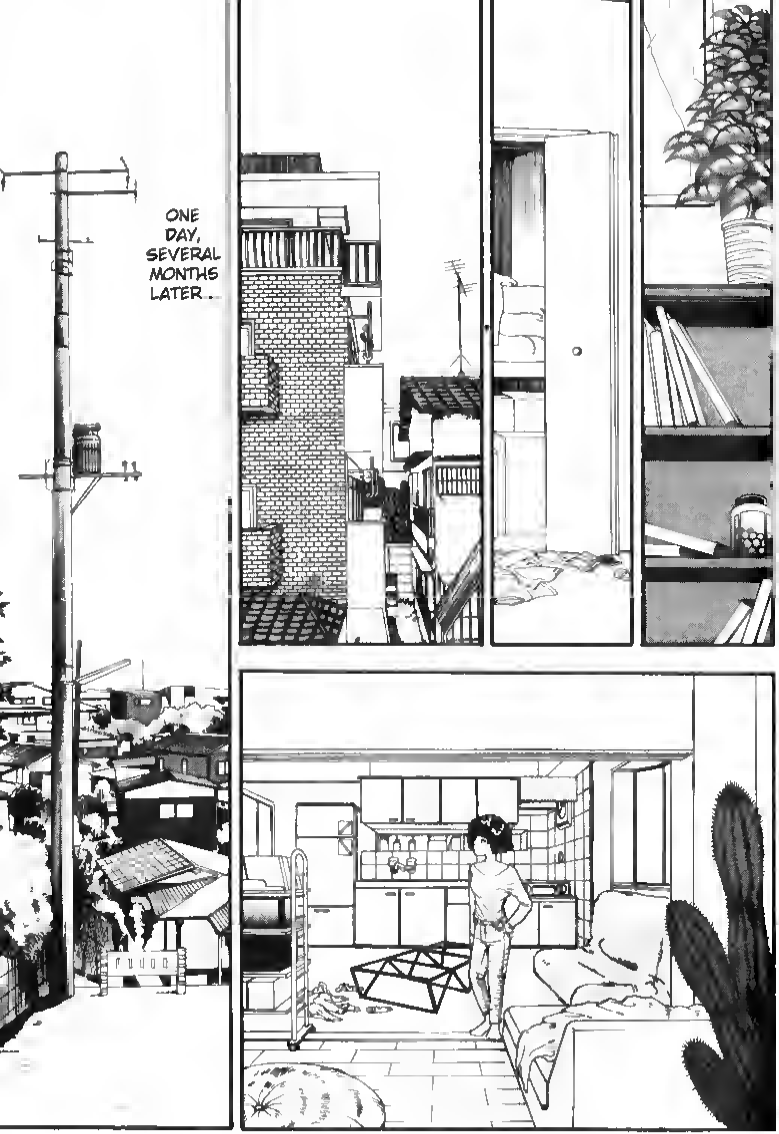
IT LOOKS LIKE SUEKICHI ISN'T COMING.
ALL RIGHT.


THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

LET'S SEE...
CAUGHT YOU!
URGH... MUNA-KATA!
HOLD STILL, YOU FIEND!
FWAP!
I-I-I...
FWAP!
N-NO YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!
TAKING HER FROM ME WASN'T ENOUGH, WAS IT!? NOW YOU'RE FORCING HER TO MARRY THAT OLD MAN TO GET HIS INHERITANCE, HUH!?
DIE, YOU EVIL BASTARD, DIE!
!?
YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE SOMEONE OF YOUR ILK?

A-AYA LEFT ME. SHE DUMPED ME TO MARRY GENICHIRO. I-IF I WAS IN ON THIS, WOULDN'T I HAVE POSED AS HER BROTHER AT THE WEDDING?
OH. I SEE.
Y-YOU DO?
SO YOU'RE HERE TO DO "THE GRADUATE" ALSO?
WHAT?
YOU CAME TO STEAL THE BRIDE--LIKE DUSTIN HOFFMAN. I SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU, YOU SLIMEBALL!
"ALSO" MEANING THAT'S YOUR PLAN, TOO!
"TOO" MEANING THAT WAS YOUR PLAN.
WELL, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG FOR THAT. YOU PROBABLY JUST SAW IT ON LATE-NIGHT TV, BUT I WAS THERE WHEN IT OPENED IN THE THEATERS, YOU WHIPPERSNAPPER!
W-WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING!?

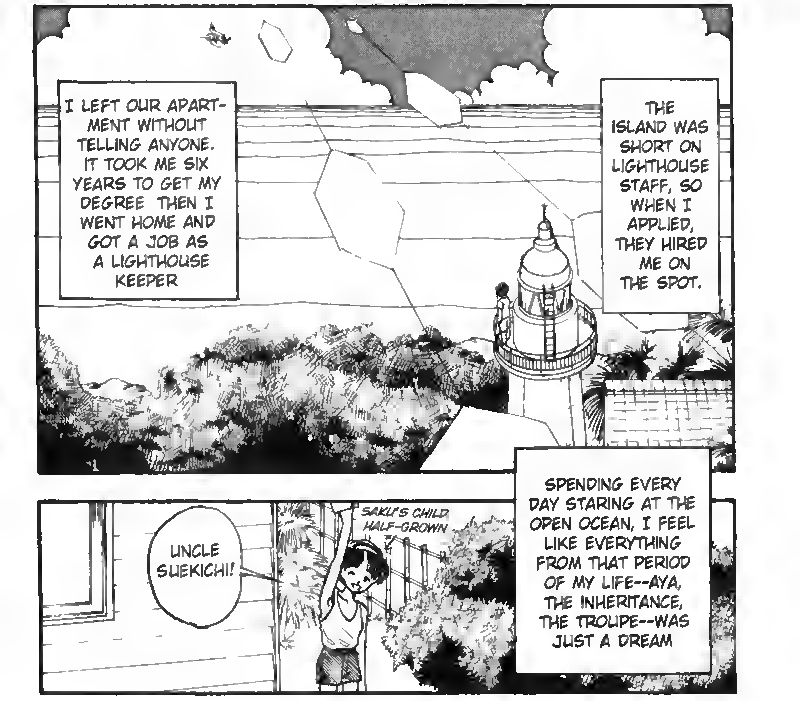
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
STOP!
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING OUTSIDE?
NOT REALLY
WHAT IS IT, DEAR?
OH, NOTHING.


ONE DAY, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER..

BIN BONG
OH!
SUEKICHI... IS HE...?
LOOKS LIKE HE MOVED OUT.
I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN A WHILE
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A WHILE, EITHER
MR TACHIMI SENT ME TO TELL SUEKICHI THAT SUE'S FINALLY AGREED TO SPLIT THE INHERITANCE.

WHAT DO I DO NOW?
HMM... WELL...
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
"IT'S ALL OVER ANYWAY..."

HM?
HELLO! SUEKICHI, HERE.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT TEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN.


I LEFT OUR APARTMENT WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE. IT TOOK ME SIX YEARS TO GET MY DEGREE THEN I WENT HOME AND GOT A JOB AS A LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER
THE ISLAND WAS SHORT ON LIGHTHOUSE STAFF, SO WHEN I APPLIED, THEY HIRED ME ON THE SPOT.
SAKI'S CHILD HALF-GROWN
UNCLE SUEKICHI!
SPENDING EVERY DAY STARING AT THE OPEN OCEAN, I FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING FROM THAT PERIOD OF MY LIFE--AYA, THE INHERITANCE, THE TROUPE--WAS JUST A DREAM

100%
ILLEGAL
MANGA
DANCE
TILL
TOMORROW
#MANGA-SKETCHBOOK@IRCHIGHWAY
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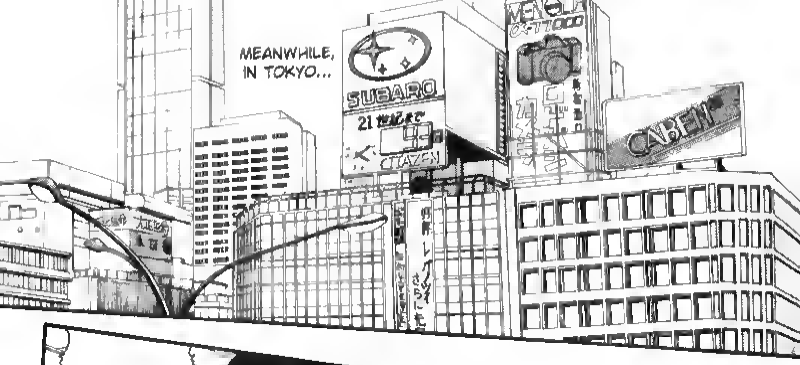
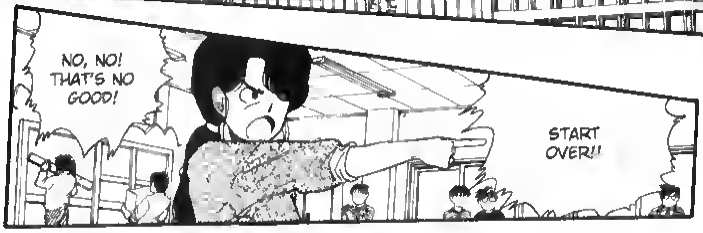
ACT THIRTEEN:
ONE MORE DANCE
WWRRRRR
A TELE-GRAM?


MEANWHILE, IN TOKYO...
SUBARO
21
CRAZY
CABER

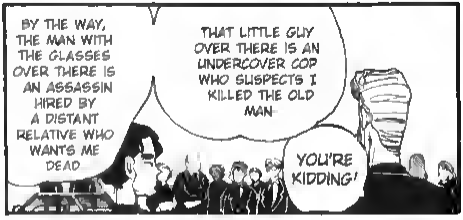

NO, NO! THAT'S NO GOOD!
START OVER!!

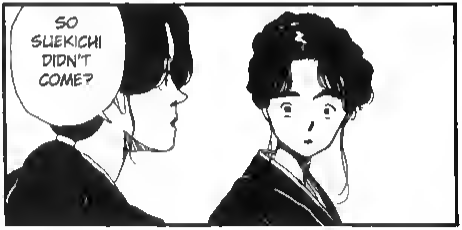
HI
GOOD MORNING.
YOU'RE LATE, IKEZU!

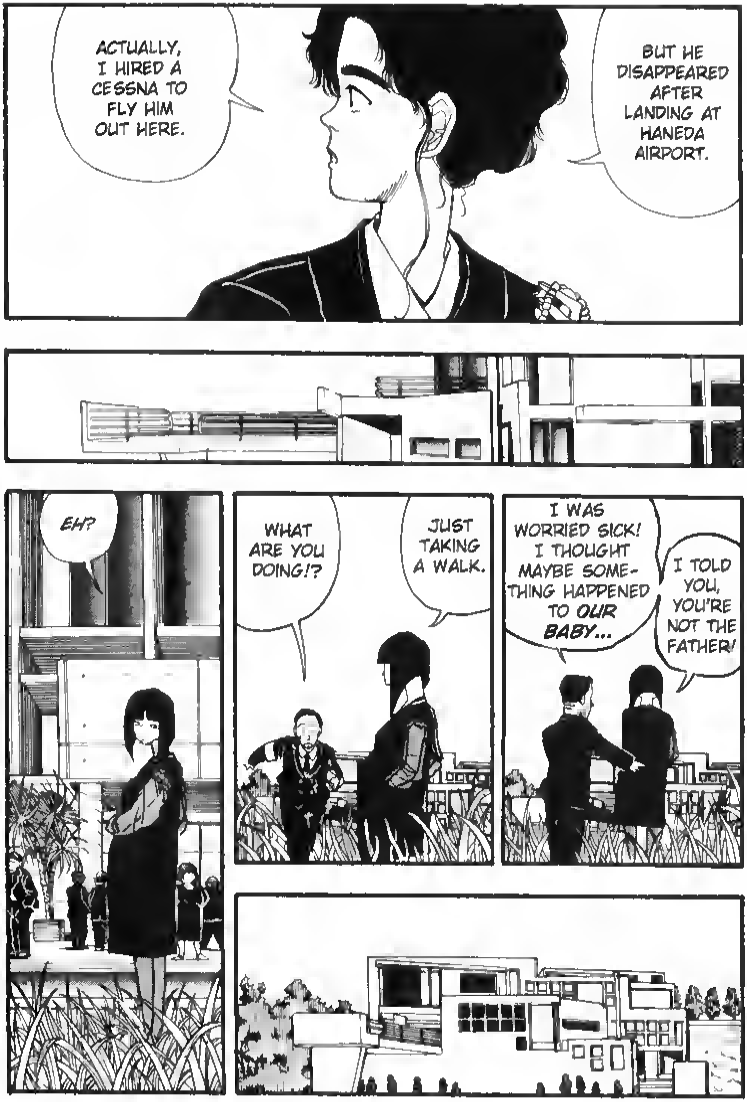
GEN-ICHIRO CROAKED
REALLY? FINALLY.
WHO'S THAT?
HE FUNDED THE TROUPE WHEN IT WAS STARTING OUT.

HEY! OVER HERE!
YO! LONG TIME NO SEE!
GENICHIRO
PRESIDENT
MALORGAN MACHINES INC

"YO"!? YOU JUST LOST YOUR HUSBAND!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I'M SURROUNDED BY DISTANT RELATIVES AND SALARYMEN MUTTERING TO THEMSELVES ABOUT THEIR COMPANIES BEING "NUMBER ONE"!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL, AYA


BY THE WAY, THE MAN WITH THE GLASSES OVER THERE IS AN ASSASSIN HIRED BY A DISTANT RELATIVE WHO WANTS ME DEAD.
THAT LITTLE GUY OVER THERE IS AN UNDERCOVER COP WHO SUSPECTS I KILLED THE OLD MAN.
YOU'RE KIDDING!


SO SUEKICHI DIDN'T COME?


ACTUALLY, I HIRED A CESSNA TO FLY HIM OUT HERE.
BUT HE DISAPPEARED AFTER LANDING AT HANEDA AIRPORT.
EH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
JUST TAKING A WALK.
I WAS WORRIED SICK! I THOUGHT MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO OUR BABY...
I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE NOT THE FATHER!

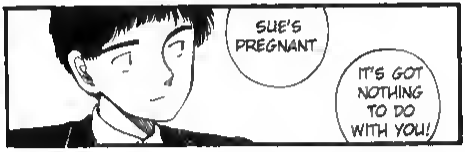
THAT WAS CLOSE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' THERE...?
GOIN POO?
J-JUST GO AWAY, OKAY?
..
HEY! SOME WEIRDO'S HIDIN' IN THE BUSHES!
...SO I THOUGHT... WELL, WHY NOT?
YOU'RE BLUSHING
DON'T BE SO BASHFUL
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS, HUH?

HELLO, SIR.
H-HELLO..
ARE YOU STILL SINGLE?
YOU'VE AGED, MR TACHIMI
YOU LOOK LIKE A POLITICIAN
AFTER I PASS ON, MIYUKI WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE INHERITANCE, SO YOU MUST..
OH!
LET'S POUND SOME DRINKS IN SHINJUKU!
I'VE GOT TO CATCH THE FIRST FLIGHT HOME.
OH, COME ON! IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS!

YOU COMMONERS HAVE IT ROUGH.
WE'RE TAKING A CAB HOME.
TAXI
SKWWEEEEZZZ
I'M PREGNANT YOU KNOW.
RIDIN' IN STYLE! ROCK ON!
STOP!
WAIT FOR ME!
SHOULD THE WIDOW BE LEAVING HER HUSBAND'S FUNERAL?
IT'S ALL RIGHT NURSIE'S TAKING CARE OF EVERY-THING
SKWEEEEZ

HELLO!

SO YOU CAME BACK TO JAPAN!
I WORK IN IMPORT/ EXPORTS NOW.
YOU LOOK LIKE CHADA.
WHO'S CHADA?
SUE'S PREG NANT
A CELE-BRITY FROM 30 YEARS AGO

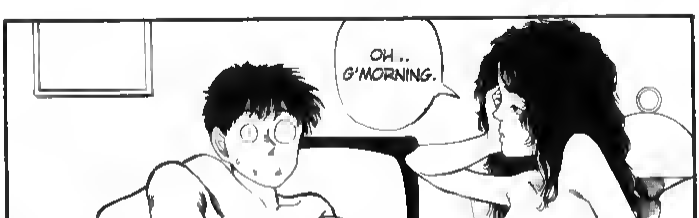

SUE'S PREGNANT
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

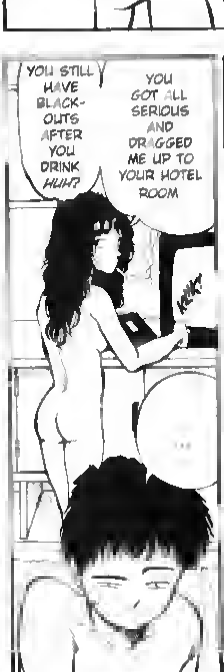
WE WERE WORRIED HE'D LIVE ANOTHER TEN YEARS, AND HE DID JUST THAT, DIDN'T HE?

WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO ALL THIS TIME?
WATCH-ING THE OCEAN

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING? REKINDLING THE FLAMES OF THE PAST?
NOT AT ALL...
DRINK UP, DRINK UP!

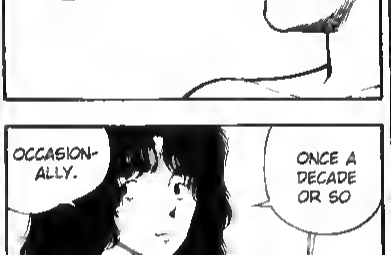
SUBARU
CITIZEN
HM?

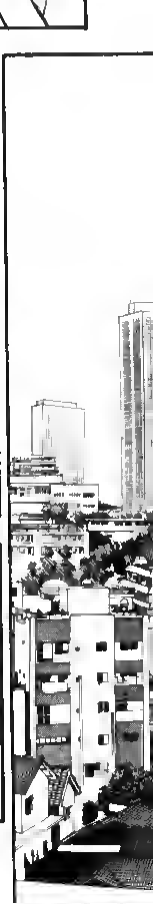

OH.. G'MORNING.


YOU STILL HAVE BLACK-OUTS AFTER YOU DRINK HUH?
YOU GOT ALL SERIOUS AND DRAGGED ME UP TO YOUR HOTEL ROOM
KEK!

HEY, MUNAKATA'S ON TV!
HE FINALLY PUBLISHED AGAIN. HAVE YOU READ HIS SECOND NOVEL, DIVORCE MAN? IT COVERS THAT WHOLE SAGA

SO YOU SMOKE NOW?


OCCASIONALLY.
ONCE A DECADE OR SO



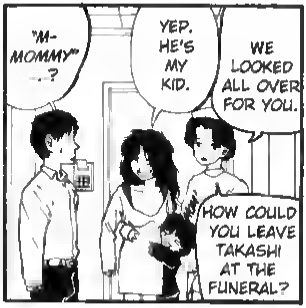
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH AT ALL.
REALLY? I'M 32 ALREADY.
MY TITS ARE STARTING TO SAG.

WHEN GEN DIED I BUSTED OUT CRYING
HE MANAGED TO HANG ON FOR TEN YEARS SEEMED LIKE HE'D NEVER GO FUNNY —H?
HEY...

LET'S START OVER
FROM THE BEGINNING.

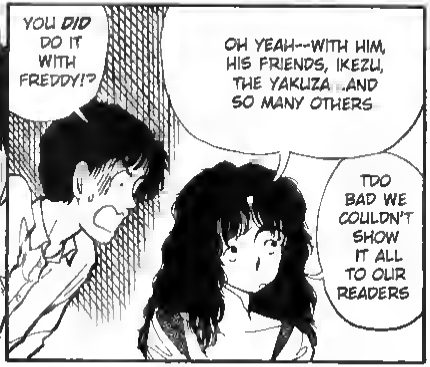
START WHAT?
EVERY-THING.
THERE'S NO INHERIT-ANCE.
I DON'T NEED IT. I'VE GOT PLENTY OF MONEY.
NOK! NOK!
...
...
...I DON'T THINK SO.
WHY NOT?
IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE?
IF WE START LIKE THIS. .
..WE'LL JUST END UP DOING WHAT WE DID TEN YEARS AGO ALL OVER AGAIN
YOU ONCE SAID...
. IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW THINGS START!
PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES. IT'S CHECKOUT TIME.
NOK! NOK!

GOOD MORNING, MOMMY!
I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE
ZOOM


"M-MOMMY"...?
YEP. HE'S MY KID.
WE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU.
HOW COULD YOU LEAVE TAKASHI AT THE FUNERAL?

SO THE FATHER IS...
OH, I DON'T KNOW. HERE'S A HINT, THOUGH. IF I COUNT BACK FROM THE DELIVERY DATE, I GOT PREGNANT RIGHT BEFORE YOU LEFT.

SO AM I...? OR GEN'I-CHIRO...?
WELL, GIVEN HIS SKIN TONE, HE DEFINITELY ISN'T FREDDY'S
S-SO

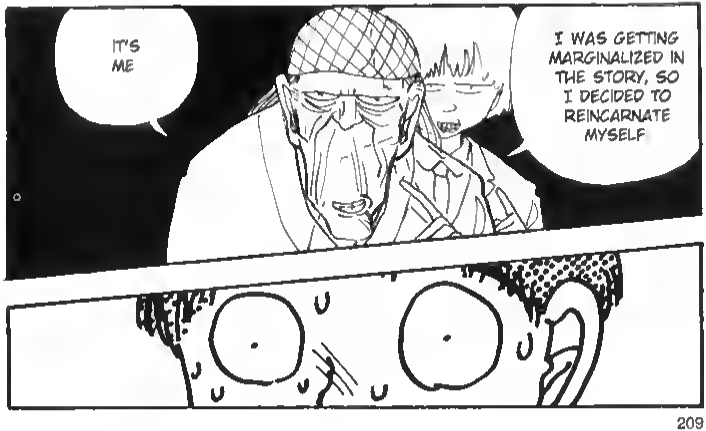

YOU DID DO IT WITH FREDDY!?
OH YEAH--WITH HIM, HIS FRIENDS, IKEZU, THE YAKUZA...AND SO MANY OTHERS
TOO BAD WE COULDN'T SHOW IT ALL TO OUR READERS

REALLY!?
'COURSE NOT.

YOU CAN'T TELL WHO I AM?
HUH?

SO WHO IS IT THEN!?
SO THAT'S MY DAD, HUH? HOW LAME
HE'S A GOOD MAN.
BEATS ME...

ANSWER ME! WHOSE KID ARE YOU!?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING HIM?


IT'S ME
I WAS GETTING MARGINALIZED IN THE STORY, SO I DECIDED TO REINCARNATE MYSELF

AROUND AND AROUND...
NO, NO! THAT'S NO GOOD!
START OVER!!
DID YOU FEED HIM THESE FANTASIES!?
HE'S DIFFERENT.
HE TALKS IN A STRANGE VOICE SOMETIMES.
PROBABLY A CHILD PRODIGY.
AND AROUND.
WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND.
THIS IS THE END, I HEAR.
SO IT GOES.

THE END

EDITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

So with this seventh volume, *Dance Till Tomorrow* is over. But not for the characters. The ending leaves a whole delicious future's worth of squabbling and loving to your fertile imaginations.

There's a popular pop-psych saying that "people don't change." Nonsense. People change when it behooves them to. When the consequences of *not* changing are perceived to be more painful. Notice that I say "*perceived* to be more painful." Some spend their lives never knowing what they're missing, because they're afraid to love and be loved and thus risk losing both. Which is inevitable, via old age if nothing else. One of you has to go first. (Barring freak accidents and war.)

Suekichi and Aya's love affair is far from perfect. But it's real. The happy ending is that they will continue to enjoy and suffer life's joys and pains together—including the ones they bestow and inflict on each other.

I'll miss them.

My unsolicited advice to all of us: Like rats and dogs, we are social animals. Our relationships are inevitably power struggles: continual conflicts between the desire for autonomy and companionship, and competition for resources—not just yummy treats but the resources of good conversation, affection, being understood, and touch. (Rats like to "nibble-groom." I'm sure you have your own favorite behaviors.). The point is, it doesn't get better than this. Don't expect it to, or you'll miss out on life and love until it's too late. If a relationship isn't a challenge, someone isn't being honest, or someone's bored. Or both.

So be kind to each other, engage in consensual physical, emotional, and intellectual activities, and enjoy while you can!

Annette Roman
English Adaptation, *Dance Till Tomorrow*

If you like
DANCE till TOMORROW
try these other titles from Viz!

Sanctuary
© 1999 Shu Fumimura/Ryoichi Ikegami/Shogakukan Inc.

• ***Sanctuary*** An erotically charged saga of political corruption, the yakuza underworld and two handsome, *ruthless* young men! Asami and Hoja vow to transform the destiny of Japan by any means. As children they survived the horrors of the Cambodian killing fields together. Now, can they topple the leaders of both the Japanese Diet and the yakuza crime syndicate? Yeah, that's the back-cover copy, but I'm the one who wrote it, eight some odd years ago! A 9-volume series written and drawn by manga greats **Shu Fumimura** and **Ryoichi Ikegami**. Order it online from our backlist at vizstore.com!

Video Girl Ai
© 1989 Masakazu Katsura/SHUEISHA Inc.

• ***Video Girl Ai*** Six volumes and counting, this series by **Masakazu Katsura** is full of gratuitous shots of the female form, especially in the chest and pectoral regions, and stars a male hero who obsesses about his romantic fortunes like a girl. Just like all you guys secretly do. Admit it! Catch *VGAi* in graphic novels or monthly in *Animerica Extra* magazine.

© 2001 Pokémon. © 1995-2001 Nintendo/Creatures Inc./GAME FREAK inc. TM and ® are trademarks of Nintendo.

• ***Magical Pokémon Journey*** Don't laugh! This title does belong in this list! The main characters Hazel and Almond are prepubescent versions of Suekichi and Aya. Pokémon romances serve as foils for their love. And creator **Yumi Tsukirino**'s exquisite drawings, like Yamamoto's, capture the subtleties of facial expressions, in this case both human and Pokémon. Seven volumes of cute and innocent fun in games.

VIZ Graphic Novel $12.95 USA/$17.95 CAN

DANCE till TOMORROW

Since Suekichi woke up with a strange woman named Aya the morning after his great-grandad's wake, two mysteries have ruled his life: is he actually going to come into an inheritance worth millions, and does his cagey new lover really love him? What complicates is that the questions are as intimate as the affair—but the nearly naked truth is about to drop what little it's got on, in this—the conclusion to *Dance Till Tomorrow!*

"This is not the plot of a saucy new network melodrame but that of *Dance Till Tomorrow*... Yamamoto's work occupies the racier end of the manga spectrum."
—*The New Yorker*

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VIZ

editor's choice

DANCE till TOMORROW

STORY AND ART BY NAOKI YAMAMOTO